

Agriculture - 1929

## Condition of CORPORATION FARMING IN THE BLACK BELT

Henry Ford, in his new book, is said to have given a good deal of attention to his enthusiasm for corporation farming. He believes this method of organization and operation offers agriculture one way out.

We should at least like to see it tried on a grand scale here in the Black Belt of Alabama. The Black Belt is an ideal country in which to demonstrate the feasibility of large-scale agricultural operations by means of corporations. The land is good, and it is cheap, much of it now being idle and going to waste; and most of it is close enough to markets. Moreover, the Black Belt lends itself to machine farming.

## Rescuing The Rural Gentry

A study of farming conditions in the South conducted under the auspices of the Department of the Interior, with an appropriation made by Congress in 1926 for that purpose, and recently published, indicates that no farming relief bill will give Southern agriculture the revival which it needs, but that upon the other hand, there must be a recasting of agricultural methods and the whole agricultural system in the South. Farm relief will help with such major crops as cotton, but over-production in cotton is only one of the many ills from which Southern agriculture suffers.

The survey, published for the information of Congress in support of the Simmons-Whittington bill, which has been favorably reported upon in Congress, was conducted by Howard Elliott, chairman of the board of the Northern and Pacific Railway and president of the overseers of Harvard College; D. C. Roper, former commissioner of internal revenue and vice chairman of the tariff commission, and Dr. George Soule, a director of the National Bureau of Economic Research and editor of the New Republic. The committee had as its advisers Dr. Elwood Mead, commissioner of reclamation; Hugh McRae, expert on rural economics; Dr. Hugh A. Brown, chief of the division of settlement and economic operations; Dr. C. S. Duncan, economist of the Association of Railway Executives, and J. M. Hughs, land commissioner of the Northern Pacific Railway.

The committee sets out the many advantages of the Southeast favorable to agriculture, such as the long growing season, adequate rainfall, fertile soils, nearly flat or gently rolling lands, nearness to markets, good transportation facilities, and low land values. Against them it sets out these handicaps:

The one-crop system—The committee found that dependence is still placed to a large de-

gree on one crop, whether cotton or some several states."

other. With cotton, the committee says, the Southeast is having increasingly more trouble. Since a better grade of cotton can be raised on lands west of the Mississippi with less cost, this cotton is freer from the boll weevil and the increasing production in the West is making it more difficult for the Southern farmer to get money for his crop.

Large acreage per farm—The committee says that acreage is too large, cultivation extensive rather than intensive.

Absentee ownership—In Georgia, 66.6 per cent of the farmers are tenants, comparing with 5.6 per cent in New England; 15.8 per cent in the Middle Atlantic states; 26 per cent for the East North Central and 37.8 for the West South Central. Tenancy is increasing in the South, where a large percentage of the tenants are Negroes, "many of whom have been trained for only growing cotton and do not easily lend themselves to diversification or scientific agriculture."

Drift of population from the land—Between 1920 and 1925, Alabama lost 19,000 farmers; Georgia, 60,000; South Carolina, 20,000 and Mississippi, 15,000. North Carolina, which was developing markets for her farmers, was the only state that gained. Georgia suffered more than any other state, having 20 per cent fewer farmers in five years; 43 per cent fewer horses; 15 per cent fewer mules; 19 per cent fewer cattle; and 37 per cent fewer swine. The acreage loss in Georgia was 3,500,000. The committee says the loss was not altogether unfortunate, for, provided reforestation is engaged in, it will be an advantage. It is unfortunate, concludes the committee, that it represents the penalty of badly organized farming and dreary rural life.

Shortage of local food crops—In spite of great surpluses of staple crops, the South still imports far too much food and fodder. Georgia ranks forty-third among the 48 states.

Inadequate marketing facilities—Absence of local food crops has prevented the establishment of markets. Unattractive rural environment—"The poverty of the tenants and their lack of social organization in many localities produces an environment dispiriting both to themselves and to prospective settlers," says the committee. "In many instances the houses are unpainted, tumble-down cabins and almost every resource of a wholesome social life is lacking, though mention should be made of the admirable consolidated rural schools which are provided in

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Lack of self-sustaining farms—Not even the farms sustained themselves with food. "It is possible," says the committee, "to travel long distances through cotton plantations without seeing a fence, a barn, a cow or a vegetable garden; there are comparatively few chickens and pigs."

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The solution, the committee finds, lies in the Simmons-Whittington bill, which provides for an appropriation of \$12,000,000 for experimental farm colonies in six Southern states, one of them in Georgia. Each colony is to have 200 farms, the land to be sold only to actual settlers on terms not longer than 40 years, with interest on deferred payments at 4 per cent. For permanent improvements, the government may lend 60 per cent of the value of the improvements, provided the amount does not exceed \$3,000, these advances to be repaid in 56 annual installments at 3 per cent of the sum advanced.

It is the purpose of the measure to create a model community, complete in its marketing facilities, in its social necessities and an inspiration to farmers through each state in which one is located. The committee says that agricultural colleges are doing a great deal, but they are not able to reach the farmer who is steeped in poverty and unable to formulate his business machinery necessary to profitable production of his crops.—Macon Telegraph.

Alabama



Agriculture - 1929

Arkansas

Condition of  
**NEWS**

Candor, Ark.

FEB 21 1929

### OUR NEGRO FARMERS.

Farm leaders of the country are looking forward to Mr. Hoover's proposed extra session of Congress which is expected to meet sometime in April to formulate a plan to bring relief to American farmers. Some leaders predict that legislation will be forthcoming that will put agriculture on easy street. Others insist that any relief for the farmer, especially in the South, must come from the farmer and not Congress.

Southern farmers are prone to take up new ideas and many of them still cling to the old "one-horse Georgia Stock" of their grandfathers' time. Such methods in this mechanical age can mean only drudgery with little pay.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, in co-operation with the agriculture departments of the various states, is providing a wealth of scientific farming information that is disseminated through country farm agents. This has led to greater productivity on farms where the owner has been willing to make use of the information.

Ouachita county is essentially an agricultural county with its farms about equally divided between white and negro farmers. For many years the county has had the services of a competent farm agent to assist white farmers in solving their problems, but nothing has ever been spent to aid the negro farmers. The question of a negro farm agent for the county has been presented to the quorum court on a number of occasions, but it has always been turned down. Until some action to educate the negro farmers, our agricultural prosperity can only be fifty per cent efficient.

In an effort to create a greater interest in the lot of our negro farmers, the Extension Service of the University of Arkansas College of Agriculture has placed a negro worker in Ouachita county until July 1. It is hoped by the Extension Service that, through the work of its agent, the need for a full-time negro agent will be seen. There is no doubt but that an appropriation for the work will be asked of the next quorum court, and it should, by all means, be given careful consideration.



Agriculture - 1929

# Condition of Plight of Negro Farmer, Agricultural Worker, in the South

By JOHN H. OWENS. the roof.

Though the Negro industrial worker has a burden of oppression and social injustice to carry out all proportion to his rewards from the American "democracy," the Black agricultural workers suffer from an oppressive Southern caste system of race discrimination, injustice, intimidation, forced labor, peonage, Jim Crowism, lynching, concubinage, denial of all political rights, and elementary justice, which is unrivaled in modern history.

The great majority of these agricultural workers are found in the Black belts of the South, especially the cotton producing states.

## Black Belt.

Of course, rural Negroes are found in varying proportions in other sections of the country, but this section comprises the Black belt of America. Many of these Negroes are forced to work from sun-up to sun-down in the field, and then take care of stock, etc., putting in a daily average of from fourteen to sixteen hours, for wages averaging less than twenty dollars a month. The white landlord's word is absolute law; the courts of the South offer absolutely no protection to Negro agricultural or industrial workers.

Vagrancy laws are directed against this unfortunate group: thus a Negro may be picked up at any time by law enforcement officers taken before local magistrates, and forced to work for some rural landlord without pay, because of some trumped up charge against him. In many instances, not only are the Negro males forced to labor long hours in the fields in the hot suns of the South but the women and children are forced to work long hours as well, hoeing cotton and corn, picking cotton, etc. In many counties in the South, thousands of Negro children never attend school, industrialization of many southern communities, and the wave of rethrees to four months, and in hardly any of the rural counties is there ever a full eight months' term.

These rural schools in most instances are mere makeshifts, frequently unpainted shacks, containing rude wooden benches, little or no equipment, a dilapidated wood-burning stove with three legs, leaning at a perilous angle, poor light and ventilation, and sometimes, when it rains, the water comes through

their own race, the industrial capitalist, who exploits both Negro and white worker alike.

And a common destiny awaits both the black and white worker of the South, both the black and white farmer, of the South, a workers' and farmers' government, under the leadership of the Communist Party, established through a dictatorship of the entire working class of the South, both black and white. And in this manner alone can the South work and farming class effect its emancipation.

## Lynching Increasing.

The figures given out by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Tuskegee, etc., concerning lynching are grossly misleading. Lynching is on the increase rather than decreasing in America. Many of the states have passed laws which declare that a minimum of persons (such as six, nine, twelve, etc.) are required to constitute a mob. This is done for a specific purpose. Really, in the South, one white man constitutes a mob, not because of the inherent bravery of one white man, but because of the potential mob which he represents. In other words, it is the power of the clan which determines his strength.

The unwritten law of the South is that no Negro has any rights which a white man is bound to respect, and this law is rigidly enforced. In fact it is given more respect than any written law on the statute books of the entire country North as well as South. Except in certain localities, and in a few isolated cases, Negro farmers are only able to continue because they exist at the minimum level of subsistence and are usually mortgaged to the limit of their limited credit facilities. Two-thirds of the Negro farm hours in the fields in the hot suns of the South are in debt beyond any hope of redemption.

## Revolt Coming.

However, the break-up of the one party system in the South, the industrialization of many southern communities, and the wave of rethrees to four months, and in hardly any of the rural counties is there ever a full eight months' term.

South are all harbingers of the coming revolt. The time is not far in the future when the poor whites of the South will extend the hand of fellowship to their black brothers for a common freedom, for the Southern white workers are beginning to more clearly realize that it is not the Negroes who are their enemy, but the common exploiter of



## A GLIMPSE OF THE PLANTATION NEGRO

Someone has remarked that half the world doesn't know how the other half lives. That observation is more applicable to white and colored people than it is to the wealthy and the poor of the same race. The South takes pride in the fact that "it knows the Negro." The Southerner has certain rules and methods of procedure, and he undoubtedly does know the Negro with respect to the relationships of the two races, but does he ever penetrate to the bottom of the Negro's mind? It is our opinion that the average Southerner knows almost nothing as to the Negro's standards and his beliefs and ambitions.

If you who have lived all your life in Henry county think that you know the Negro, then we suggest that you secure a copy of "Black April" and read it carefully. It will not be as great a revelation to you as it would be to a Northerner. You will bear out your belief that the Negro still is a superstitious, half-wild sort of fellow, distrusting the white man's learning and relying on his own religion and Black Magic in times of distress. But you will also find that you have hardly scratched the surface of the Negro's character as it is delineated by the author of this book, Julia Peterkin, a Southern woman who last year was awarded one of the Pulitzer prizes.

In "Black April" only the uneducated Negroes come under the author's observation. The time is the present and the scene is a dilapidated plantation in the Carolinas, so that some allowance should be made in the application of the story to the Negroes of rural Alabama. The treatment throughout as frank and revealing as it is, is sympathetic to the black characters. April, the plantation foreman and hero of the tale, never knew who his father was, although this father knew that April was his son. April's favorite child is the illegitimate son of his unrecognized half-sister. The story becomes further complicated genealogically for the white reader by the fact that April becomes the grandfather, by his young wife, of a child whose father is another illegitimate son. Throughout the book the distinction between one "yard chillen" and those of the other kind is preserved.

The book is packed with superstition. When Breeze's unmarried mother was "birthing him" the old midwife put plow-points and, in an extremity, an axe, under the bed "to cut the pains". This, it seems, was the chief feature of the prejudices and mysticisms connected with the practice of obstetrics. Breeze, April's son and half-brother, was born "wid a caul on e face". Having been born "on the small of the moon", and with this caul on his face, it followed that he was "gifted with his second-sight". Indeed, religion and superstition dominate the book. "You look to me like you is conjured", one character tells another. "You eyes looks stainin'. You must set crossed somebody on Sunday. De plat-eyes is atter you" When April's wife died, for instance, somebody put "an awful soniure" on him. "Leah's death sheet had been folded and

laid across the foot of April's bed. . . . April wanted to throw it in the fire, but Maun Hanna stopped him. Burnin' a conjure bag or a death sheet is the worse thing that you can

do. They have to be drowned." The Negro here is represented as having little faith in "the white man's medicine". Sore throat, caused perhaps by bad tonsils, was "cured" by tying two plaits of hair tightly across the head of a little girl to "hold her palate up", which, it appears, had "fallen". Maun Hanna, the plantation's midwife and witch-doctor, possesses charms that were brought from Africa by her slave ancestors. Uncle Isaac is the mystic and seer of the plantation. "He could explain, exactly, why the grass is green and the sky is blue. Why the sun shines in the day time and the moon and stars at night. He knew what the thunder said when it spoke. He could whistle the first tune the wind ever whistled. One time, the night was a great big black giant which ran around the sun, trying to catch the day. Uncle Isaac said so, and he knew more about the first men and women who ever lived than Adam and Eve ever dreamed of. He got it all at first-hand, by word of mouth, from Africa, where the world itself was born and a terrible black God made all men black."

The farm Negro has a lore of his own, touched either by him or, in this particular instance, the author of "Black April", with a simple poetry:

"Kin you tell de time, Breeze?"

"I kin tell if it ain't cloudy, neither rainin', in de day time."

Sherry (an under hero) said there were many other ways to tell; the tide runs true, rain or shine, morning-glories and lots of other flowers open and close by time. Big Sue's yard was full of four-o'clocks. They'd be wide open now. Birds change their song with the turn of the afternoon. "Listen! You can hear a red-bird whistlin' right now. Dis mawnin' e went so . . . . . Sherry pursed his lips and mimicked a bar of the bird's song. "Now e says to dis . . . . . And he whistled a few notes that the bird himself echoed. "Dat bird knows it's past four. A red-bird knows de time every bit as good as Uncle. Grass blades moves wid de day too. Dey leans dis way and dat to get de light. A lot o' t'ings is got more sense dan people, enty Uncle?"

There seems to be no feeling, strangely enough, of inferiority among these blacks of the Carolinas. They entertain the highest opinions of their superstitions and magic, but on occasion are scornful of the white man's books. "Uncle", one character asks, "you believe any white folks is in Heaven?" "Gawd knows, son," this old man replies, "White folks is mighty smart people. Dey knows a lot o' tricks we don't know."

In spite of his station in life and his great possessions, which the Negro's instincts discount, the white man, when he is discussed, is made light of. He is of a "weakly race"; his skin can't stand the sun, nor can his blood stand the fevers that come out of the swamp before frost. The white man has set his finger on that fever, but these Negroes still don't know what causes it. But even so, this white man has his champion among the older of these darkies. Uncle Bill, the plantation's greatest religionist, pays the "Ol' Cap'n," now long

dead, a high compliment in the following restricted passage:

"When you reckon Ol' Cap'n is today, Uncle Bill?" . . . . . You don't want to say, enty? I don't blame you, but between you and me I spec' e is whe' I hope he aint; a hoppin' in Hell dis minute!" "Shut you' mouth, gal! Gawd'll strike you dead first t'ing you know! . . . . . Ol' Cap'n had his faults, but e was a man! Yes Gawd! A man! . . . . . Lawd, I can see Ol' Cap'n now. High an' straight. Slim till de day e died. His eyes could go black as soot and flash wid pure fire when e got vexed, but dey could shine soft as a gal-chillen's eyes too. . . . .

"Dat new preacher preaches dat de Great I-Am is a nigger! Don't you let em fool you, gal. Gawd is white. You'll see it when Judgment Day comes. An' E ain't gwine be no ways hard on a fine man like Ol' Cap'n. . . . . Miss Big Sue, I gwine tell you some-thing. Ol' Cap'n was a lilly of de valley. E was a bright and mawnin' star. When Death took him, it took de Jedus of dis plantation. Blue Brook ain't never been de same since. No."

"Black April" represents that the Negro Race has a tremendously long way to go—if it goes at all. From its Black Magic and its religion it will take such leaders as DePriest and Moton several generations to disassociate their kind, since the mass of the Negroes the white man's civilization still means nothing.



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## Agriculture-1929 Condition of FARM COMMUNITIES

Senator Simmons has a new plan for improving the farmer of the South. He is backed in it by Hugh MacRae, of Wilmington; David R. Coker, of Herts-ville, S. C.; Dr. E. C. Branson, of the University of North Carolina, and others prominent in the South.

The Simmons-Whittington bill introduced today by Senator Simmons and by Representative W. M. Whittington, of Mississippi, in the House, relates to the improvement of rural life conditions in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

The agriculture of the South is a distinct problem which cannot be solved by ordinary farm relief legislation. It has factors that menace the very existence of Southern rural life and that require special remedies.

### Needs Reorganization

Senator Simmons says that Southern agriculture needs a complete reorganization from the ground up. Planned and supervised colonies are believed to be the primary step in establishing an enduring rural life in the South and putting it on a parity with other sections of the United States.

His purpose is to demonstrate the value of organized community life that will endure and transform a section in which agriculture is still decadent, into one capable of sustaining a prosperous and happy rural life. It will not be a charity but an opportunity. Each of these organized agricultural communities would be a little world in itself with every man, woman and child cooperating while living under the best rural conditions with modern facilities for comfortable living.

### Farm Surplus

The bill introduces no problem of increasing farm surplus. The set-up for each state will be distinct from the others, being governed by the system of agriculture to which each tract is best adapted, and will give primary consideration to supplying home markets. It does not contemplate drainage of swamps or the use of land involving expensive preparation, nor does it con-

template the use of poor land; only the best types of lands will be selected.

This is not a land reclamation project. The lands will be acquired at low prices so that farms can be sold at very reasonable prices upon easy terms of payment, with low rates of interest which will enable industrious farmers to attain ownership.—H. E. C. Bryant, in Charlotte Observer.

### A GROWING COTTON LOSS.

Cotton trade experts, both in the United States and in Europe, are warning the cotton growers of the south of a cotton waste entailing millions of dollars every year and growing greater with each recurring season. It is in the production of inferior cotton.

It is claimed that the average cotton production is growing poorer in quality every year, thereby producing a smaller income for the farmer. One of the most prominent cotton mill men of the nation testified to a congressional committee that the quality of American cotton is steadily deteriorating and that only 10 per cent of the annual crop is of a staple of which we have any reason to be proud.

The trend of the cotton textile demand all over the world is for lighter cotton cloth and as such cloth contains less cotton to the yard it requires a lighter, longer and stronger staple. Yet the cotton growers seem to be making no efforts of effect to improve the average staple of their crops. The variety of cotton known as "half-and-half" seems most popular with the common run of cotton farmers and croppers. It is declared by the spinners to be no better than the low grade cotton raised in India by cheap labor on cheap lands. The present consequence is that the English spinners, in a Manchester report, show a considerable increase in the consumption of Indian cotton. Compared with last year less American cotton was consumed outside the United States and here at home more Egyptian staple is required for textiles that are to be mercerized.

If the southern cotton growers do not improve the quality of the staple they raise they will yearly

## General

hand over more of their export market to the cheaper staple from India and other foreign fields. This particular and enormous waste through indifferent culture can be stopped and our agricultural bureaus should be active in promoting that salvage by the cotton growers.

### TWO MILLIONS COOPERATE

Two million farmers are organized into 12,000 associations in the United States for the purpose of marketing their products or buying their supplies, or doing both, on a cooperative basis, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. Last year they sold collectively farm products to the value of nearly \$2,000,000,000 and they purchased farm supplies to the value of nearly a half-billion dollars.

These cooperatively minded farmers are scattered throughout the forty-eight states. They are particularly numerous in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, New York, and in the states along the Pacific coast.

Nearly one-third of the farmers engaged in buying or selling together are members of farmers' elevator associations, and about one-fifth belong to co-operative creameries, cheese factories, or milk-marketing associations. Nearly 150,000 are interested in the co-operative ginning or marketing of cotton. About 50,000 farmers are selling poultry products cooperatively, and about 25,000 are acting collectively in marketing their annual wool clips.

Nearly one-half of the farmers participating in cooperative activity are members of more than one organization.

The costs of providing drainage and other improvements for the benefit of the community would be spread over the farms in the settlement and repaid as part of the cost of the land. The communities would be large enough so that they could organize in both social and business affairs. The advantages offered settlers in this plan would attract experienced farmers of thrift and integrity and create a permanent community of earnest intelligent people who would be equipped to utilize the benefits of scientific knowledge, modern farm machinery, and team work in the selection of crops to be grown and preparation and marketing of products. It would introduce into farming the benefits of mass production, of standard quality farm products. Means would be provided for helping the farmers in solving problems of production, marketing, credit and other factors entering into their social and economic life. The experts of the land-grant colleges and State universi-

ties and other public institutions would be freely called upon for service in making these into communities of prosperous and contented farmers.

## LOOKING AND LISTENING

BY SAM W. SMALL

### What in Sam Hill Is a Debenture? Here's the Answer.

The Constitution has been somewhat flooded with inquiries as to "what in Sam Hill is a debenture?"



Farmers, in particular, seem puzzled to determine whether it is an Argo bringing to them the golden fleece of prosperity or a plague ship that will destroy what life is left in their industry. Senator Harris sees it in the first form and President Hoover paints it in the latter shape.

Our best understanding is that the export debentures scheme is a German invention that has found welcome in the ranks of the National Grangers. Because it helped somewhat to reestablish certain German industries temporarily our Granger fellow-citizens wish to try it on the agricultural industry of our own country.

It means that whenever the farm board, if created, thinks it necessary, the secretary of the treasury shall issue export debentures "to any farmer, co-operative association, stabilization corporation, or other persons, with respect to such quantity of the commodity, or manufactured food product thereof, as such person may from time to time export from the United States

to any foreign country." The debentures will have half the value of the tariff on any farm product or that part of it that enters into manufactured food stuffs.

As there is no tariff on cotton the amount is fixed at two cents a pound, or about \$10 per bale. The title to a debenture is to pass to the holder a life of one year, and be legal tender at face value in payment of custom or import taxes.

It is figured that with a bounty of \$10 on every bale of cotton exported, including lint, the entire crop will, of course, be advanced that amount, or an average of \$159,500,000. The debentures on the average exports of lint and linters would be \$79,600,000, which amount would be deducted from import dues and have to be made up to the national treasury from other taxes paid by the people at large; and through the increased cost of cotton the people would also pay the remainder of the \$159,500,000, or \$79,600,000.

This export debentures provision would undoubtedly boost domestic prices, not only for raw cotton, but for the finished goods sent out from the factories for sale to the consuming public. Now with these facts at the head of his slate the farmer, for instance, can easily figure out how far the \$10 per bale bonus, given to the person who actually exports the cotton and not to himself personally as the grower, would go to help his cost of living at the store of his favorite merchant? We confess that, without the data in each man's individual case, we cannot figure out the puzzle for any of our inquirers.



## THE SMALL FARM HOLDING ITS OWN

**T**HE VIEW, RATHER WIDELY HELD, that the cure for many of our agricultural ills rests with the application of so-called modern, large-scale methods of farming and the merging of many small farms or holdings into one large enterprise, seems to have received a body blow from the United States Chamber of Commerce. This organization, we read, has an agricultural service department which has been looking into the relative merits or advantages of large vs. small farms. Returns were received from some seventy-four large-scale farms averaging 11,797 acres in size, having an average capitalization of \$553,743, and a four-year average of \$102,676 in gross income. Much to the surprise of the average American newspaper editor, the little farmer makes just as much money, acre for acre, as the big farmer. The chief advantage of the small farm, explains the *Washington Star*, appears to be in the application of labor: a man working for himself or his father works longer and harder than one working for wages. To quote a portion of the Chamber of Commerce report:

"Taken as a group, the large-scale farms apparently have been no more nor any less successful than the average of the family-size farms. Furthermore, there are fully as great variations in efficiency among the large farms as has been found in numerous surveys of family farms. It appears, then, that mere incorporation or organization of farming enterprises on a large scale will not automatically solve the problems of the agricultural industry.

"From this study it appears that large-scale farms may have advantages over family farms in superior management, organization, more efficient utilization of machinery, specialization of labor, buying and selling in wholesale quantities and, in some instances, reduction of overhead expense.

"The large farms also have certain disadvantages. They experience difficulty in securing efficient labor and in obtaining the degree of interest of the laborers in the success of the business which is found on family farms. The seasonal character of farm work and uncertainties in weather conditions prevent as effective use of machinery and as complete division of labor as is achieved in some other industries.

"The future development of large-scale farming in the United States is a matter of conjecture. Fears as to the probable disastrous effects of an extensive development of large-scale farming upon the social life of the rural population are at least premature, since this type of farming still is a relatively unimportant factor in the agricultural industry, and the rapidity of its future development is uncertain."

This is welcome news to the *New York World*, for "it would be a calamity if the spread of corporate farming should finally force 10,000,000 independent producers to become wage-earners." That the application of mass-production methods to the soil is gaining, however, is pointed out in the report, which says there are 9,000 farming corporations with a gross income total of \$709,000,000 in 1928 on the books of the income-tax

bureau. And this, we are reminded, is 6 per cent. of the total gross income of American agriculture. But, points out the *Chicago Journal of Commerce*:

"Some large-scale farms, of course, are richly successful; otherwise nobody would be going into the business. In these cases, however, it is nearly always discovered that there is something peculiar in the geographical conditions or in the nature of the commodities produced, or that the management is exceptionally capable. On the whole, the large-scale farms earn no more return than the family farms."

**THE FARMING EVOLUTION.** of diversified crops, saving land and labor costs, and reaping larger returns per acre.

It takes time for great movements of evolution to come to head, but there is such a movement in the industry of farming that gathered strength and will inevitably revolutionize it in this corner of land on which a neighbor farmer tries. It is manifesting its progress—raised only three bales of poor cotton in a forced necessity to reduce farm on from 12 acres. That is a cold, units and apply intensive methods proven fact of record.

Forty per cent of the more than being lost upon many farmers all six million farms in the United States at present are of less than 50 acres each. Except in the cotton belt and those "one-horse farms" as they were once called, United States will measure much are fully farmer-owned and produce less than 100 acres each. They diversified crops. The farms from which have come the most strenuous complaints and demands for "relief" are those of large acreages, the most profitable enterprises running up from 500 acres to 5,000 acres and over.

The greater farms are not worked for a living and ultimate family competency, but for big profit-making on staple crops of wheat, corn, cotton and cattle. They require large capital, large mechanical and manual forces, the carriage of large credits and debts and the speculative chances against weather conditions and crop diseases and pests whom this farm relief was most needed.

It is, generally speaking, the small farmers who own their practically free farms, have current credit at home, and cultivate with industry and economy, who do not fill the air with their lamentations and the halls of congress with their demands for relief.

The department of agriculture notes the increased tendency, elsewhere than in the greater wheat and corn regions, to reduce farm acreages. The younger farmers who have had vocational education in agricultural principles and methods are generally opposed to large farms. They know the greater profitableness of using farm machinery in the intensive cultivation

the present spot and contract quotations, permit the embargoed portion to be fed to buyers at profit prices, and so establish a permanent marketing system that will redeem the producers from the squeezing arts of market manipulators and gambling speculators.

It is not safe to predict what will come from the farm board's action. That will depend upon how the farmers respond to its intentions and make general use of its aid. It may happily turn out to be a salvation song.

## Southern Negroes Operate One-Fourth Of Nation's Farms

Mississippi leading with 161,001; Georgia 130,176; South Carolina 109,005; Alabama 95,200; Texas 78,664; North Carolina 74,849; Arkansas 72,272; Louisiana 62,086; Virginia 47,690; Tennessee 38,181; Oklahoma 18,727; Florida 12,954; Kentucky 12,624.

These farms, including a few in Delaware and Maryland, are 41,436,943 acres, valued at \$2,139,964,790.

The negroes' wealth in the south is about \$3,000,000,000, while in the north it is less than \$75,000,000. His wealth per capita in the north is \$45, in Texas 7343, Arkansas \$449, Mississippi leading all states in the Union with \$542 per capita.

I would like those who oppose our race read this and see if I am not right in advising the negroes to remain in the south. If things are not as we wish them to be, we can not correct them by leaving. Not only would I advise to remain in the south, but on the farms. The article in a previous issue, "Strange Facts" should be read. It does not only justify them to remain on the farms, but will justify the state to improve the rural communities with better school facilities.—Southern Watchman





Agriculture - 1929

Georgia

Advocate-Democrat  
March 1, 1929

# Condition of. Interesting Figures on Farming in Georgia Showing What Can Be Accomplished

BY HARVIE JORDAN.

Editor Constitution: I read your editorial of the 14th inst. entitled "Our Farm Problems." The present agricultural situation in Georgia is more depressed than at any time in the past history of the state. The problem for rehabilitation is acute and its only practical and speedy solution lies in the adoption by the farmers of a change from the old methods of excessive acreage per plow to a modern efficient system of intensive culture.

One stage of experiment has been passed in the last six years of proving the economic and profitable value of intensive culture on restricted acreage per plow in thousands of ocular field demonstrations with cotton and corn in every state in the south. In 1928 through our better farming campaign we had operated in

for corn, 10 bushels per acre, as estimated by the federal crop reporting bureau, putting Georgia at the bottom in acre yields of lint cotton and corn for 1928.

I present herewith a statement based upon the reports of a few of the Georgia operators of our demonstrations to show what is being done and can be applied by every efficient farmer in Georgia.

These results show the profits of efficient farm operation, liberal fertilization and intensive culture. Our field demonstrations are operated by average good farmers, without any personal supervision of their activities, and without the promise of attractive cash prizes so often used by other agencies to stimulate extra effort. Cotton is now and will continue to be the leading money crop of Georgia and corn the principal food crop. Both can be grown profitably by more ef

Name	Postoffice	2 Acre lint yield in lbs.	Sale of lint and seed	Cost of production	Net profit per acre	Lint yield in lbs.
Homer Davis	Rome	2,232	\$513.86	\$130.70	\$382.66	1,116
R. P. Burson	Monroe	1,888	401.48	156.02	245.56	944
H. F. Fulbright	Eastanolle	1,690	371.66	102.88	268.78	845
L. W. Murphy	Cannon	1,586	371.46	108.02	263.44	793
C. E. Fortson	Lovejoy	1,568	339.92	89.56	250.36	784
A. P. Johns	Toccoa	1,510	365.42	103.60	261.82	755
J. D. Cash	Flowers Branch	1,421	345.81	88.25	257.56	710
B. C. Bright	Hampton	1,352	295.24	117.16	178.08	676
T. W. Parker	Conyers	1,350	249.50	92.50	257.00	675
P. W. Cobb	Watkinsville	1,326	291.00	85.20	206.40	663
J. H. Patrick	Jackson	1,263	283.00	100.93	182.04	631
Herschel B. Harris	Watkinsville	1,244	289.68	107.83	181.85	622
T. B. Wiley	Blackshear	1,240	275.60	80.00	195.60	620
J. W. McCurley	Martin	1,232	281.20	86.90	194.30	616
W. J. Butler	Lawrenceville	1,200	276.00	80.00	196.00	600
W. T. Long	Jefferson	1,197	276.92	139.90	137.02	588
J. A. Coachman	Leslie	1,190	246.20	79.76	166.44	595
E. Fortson	Lovejoy	1,165	245.04	81.26	163.78	582

The above reports will analyze on the acre basis as follows:  
Average per acre yield of lint cotton.....712 Lbs.  
Average per acre sale of lint and seed.....\$158.80  
Average per acre, cost of production.....50.80  
Average per acre, net profit.....108.00

Name	Postoffice	Per Acre yield bus.	Per Acre value	Per Acre cost	Per Acre net profit
A. J. Johns	Toccoa	76	\$76.00	\$14.00	\$62.00
W. T. Long	Jefferson	65	81.25	11.24	70.01
W. O. Hudson	Elberton	51	61.00	17.40	43.60
J. W. Elliott	Williamson	42	42.00	15.00	27.00
W. H. Austin	Alpharetta	41	41.00	15.00	26.00
H. A. Martin	Lutherville	41	41.00	13.50	27.50
G. W. Pough	Lumpkin	41	41.00	14.00	27.00
A. Morrison	Barney	39	39.00	10.50	28.50
H. F. Fulbright	Eastanolle	38	38.00	14.40	23.60

cotton and 85 corn field demonstrations. The average yield of lint cotton at these stations was in excess of one bale per acre and the average acre yield of corn approximated 40 bushels. Every demonstration cultivated through the season and not destroyed by storms or excessive rains yielded a good profit per acre to the growers. The yields of these intensively cultivated farms compare with the average low yield per acre in Georgia of only 131 pounds of lint cotton, and counties of Georgia, by farmers, 130

efficient farm operations under the intensive system of culture. It must be done of Georgia farmers expect as a whole, but more particularly of those who live in the open country, west of the Mississippi river. This situation, Dr. Soule stated, has state must assume a helpful attitude in working out the problem of agricultural rehabilitation in the various counties if definite and satisfactory progress is to be made in the near future. Thousands of Georgia farmers have become a liability to the owners while the exodus of farm la

## DR. SOULE ATTACKS COOLIDGE PROSPERITY

Georgia College Head Says Agricultural Conditions Are Not as Pictured.

Moultrie, Ga., January 29.—(P)—Centering his attack on "big business," Dr. Soule asserted. This, he said, was the cause of the agricultural depression in an address here today to farmers, bankers and business men from a dozen south Georgia counties. He asserted that he could not understand why a people who have made such great strides along economic, scientific and industrial lines should be so persistently blind as to the true significance of agricultural conditions.

Pointing out that a series of bad seasons, crop diseases and other setbacks have just about brought the farmer to the end of his tether, he continued, that it seemed "strange that it has not been possible as yet for any considerable number of savants, industrial leaders or economists to correctly visualize and understand the fundamental relation which a prosperous and progressive agriculture bears toward the social uplift and material welfare of the nation." Apparently only the arrival of a pronounced crisis "will bring us to our senses," Dr. Soule said. He criticized President Coolidge for failing to "take up the cudgels on behalf of the tillers of the soil" and took issue with the chief executive in his recent remark that the farmer must work out his own salvation.

"This seems a peculiarly unsympathetic statement to emanate from the lips of the president in view of the special thrift privileges and advantages which have been accorded a majority of the industries of the country," he said.

Recently, however, there has been a pricking up of the ears of "big business," Dr. Andrew M. Soule, president said, is the result of the slowing up of the industries and consequent decline done outstanding contest work during 1928, will be members of the party. The trip will include spending a day in New Orleans, a day in Houston, a tour of the Rio Grande valley and a stop in Brownsville as the last point before crossing the border. The party will go into Mexico to Matamoros, where it will attend an international agricultural banquet, returning to Houston from there to spend Sunday. They will visit the capitol at Austin and will be received by the governor and both houses of the Texas state legislature. Before returning home, the party will spend a final day inspecting farming operations in northeastern Texas.

ciation with the rehabilitation of the nation's farm owners.

He explained that the satisfactory solution of the farm problem necessitates new methods of practice, the institution of new plans of procedure, the purchase and utilization of new classes of implements of greater horsepower, and the cultivation of new crops upon a different scale from that which has been followed in the past. Provision must be made for the development of a live stock program. Everything on the farm must be made up-to-date, he said.

A keener perception and evaluation of farm economics on the part of bankers and business men than now exists are needed, the speaker said. Something besides cotton alone will have to be deemed worthy of credit before conditions now confronting the southeastern states can be changed. A well-devised plan of crop diversification is essential, he said, but this will be impossible without the active aid of the bankers and business men.

Any program of agricultural prosperity must be predicated "more upon an educational motivation than anything else," he declared. "Our business leaders, savants and politicians have never been sold as yet to the genuine need of a nation-wide, broad-gauged, constructive policy of educational development as it relates to agriculture and the rural home." He asserted that educated leaders were needed among the farmers today.

## TRIP TO TEXAS IS PRIZE OFFERED GA. FARMERS

Dr. Soule Announces Winners of Cotton and Corn Five Acre Contests.

Athens, January 27.—(P)—A trip to Louisiana, Texas and Mexico will be the additional reward for winners of first prize in the 5-acre cotton and corn contests being conducted by the Georgia State College of Agriculture, according to an announcement from the college here.

Two or three members of the college's extension section who have done outstanding contest work during 1928, will be members of the party. The trip will include spending a day in New Orleans, a day in Houston, a tour of the Rio Grande valley and a stop in Brownsville as the last point before crossing the border. The party will go into Mexico to Matamoros, where it will attend an international agricultural banquet, returning to Houston from there to spend Sunday. They will visit the capitol at Austin and will be received by the governor and both houses of the Texas state legislature. Before returning home, the party will spend a final day inspecting farming operations in northeastern Texas.

## N. A. EDWARDS WRITES ABOUT COLORED CLUB.

February 22, 1929.

Editor Advocate-Democrat,  
Crawfordville, Ga.

Kind sir, please allow space in your columns to speak to our boys of Taliaferro county about the 3-acre cotton contest for colored folks.

Let us have fifty colored farmers to join this contest. May we not be afraid, but be brave and take courage, for some of the best white people of the county are behind this movement. Mr. John F. Holden is leading the fight. To be a winner in this contest, you must have plenty of energy, rise early and stay on the job.

Rev. N. T. Thompson, of Atlanta, Ga., is down preparing to enter the contest. He has been one of Hancock county's best colored farmers.

The writer is asking that we live more economically than ever, and be alive to our vocation, and stay on the job. We hope our yield will be so bountiful that our young men and young women will leave the cities and come back to the farm and if they cannot grow cotton, grow other farm products and raise the biggest hogs.

Mr. Tom Asbury gave a fine lecture last Saturday afternoon.

Now fathers, encourage your boys to join and learn how to farm and be a man while you live.

N. A. EDWARDS, Col.



*Constitution  
Atlanta, Ga.*

#### REPLACEMENT FARMERS.

The replacement of worn-out farmers is interesting the federal board for vocational education and it is undertaking to stimulate the instruction of youths in agricultural colleges and vocational departments of other institutions to meet the annual deficits.

The rural economists figure that the productive managerial life of a farmer is 20 years, which means that one-twentieth of the farmers must be supplied each year by beginners. As there are approximately 6,450,000 farmers in the United States, by the latest computation of the department of agriculture, the normal demand for new farmers is 322,500 per year.

The figures for Georgia call for 15,500 replacements each year—9,000 for the white farmers and 6,500 for the negro farmers.

In order to take care of these replacements in Georgia, if each of the new farmers is to have the advantage of secondary education with vocational training, it will be necessary to turn out from the white agricultural courses each year one-twentieth of 180,000 white farmers and as many from the colored institutions for recruits of the 130,000 negro farmers.

It is found that around 51 per cent of the graduates from agricultural schools engage afterwards in actual farming as their vocation; which would seem to call for twice as many such graduates as would otherwise answer normal demands.

The main question of interest to Georgians is how far are our agricultural training schools and colleges meeting even the normal annual demand for replacements? If they could adequately meet them each year the farms of Georgia would, within a decade, be practically under the conduct of farmers scientifically instructed and capable of making agriculture a most regular and profitable industry of the state.

This issue presents itself in most appealing terms to the present gen-

eration of Georgia farmers. If they wish their sons and daughters to carry on their inherited farm estates in a worthy way they will insist upon the legislatures of the state supporting the agricultural schools in a generous and productive way. By such wisdom and liberality the Georgia farmer of the next generation can be made the equal of the most prosperous and contended agriculturists of the world.



Agriculture 1929.

Condition of

*Virtual  
Rural Vista, Inc.*

JAN 11 1929

## A FARM LABOR PROBLEM

The Harris bill, which practically excludes Mexico common labor from the United States, has been unanimously reported for passage at Washington.

The common labor supply on farms in the southwestern part of the United States is a serious problem and Mexican labor which comes in to harvest the seasonal crops and which returns to Mexico when the rush is over, seems to be the principal source of supply. It is estimated that 70,000 such laborers are used each year, while under the proposed legislation this number would be cut down to about 1200.

It is stated by persons in authority who have dealt with Mexican common labor that it does not compete with white labor and that biologically and otherwise it is preferable to Philippine, Porto Rican and Negro labor. In the sugar belt fields, in mines and on the railroad section gangs in the semi-arid sections of the Southwest no other labor seems able to stand the heat as well as the Mexicans.

DEMOCRAT

*Glennville N. Va.*

JAN 17 1929

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Harris Bill

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The problem is a serious one and deserving of the fullest investigation and consideration free from prejudice or political pressure.



*Agriculture 1929*  
**Condition of  
TRIBUNE  
CONCORD, N. C.**

**MAR 25 1929  
NEGRO FARM OPERATORS IN  
STATE.**

Cabarrus county between the years 1910 and 1925, inclusive had a very small increase in negro farm operators, S. H. Hobbs, Jr., shows in a recent issue of The University News Letter. The number of these negro operators in Cabarrus in 1925 was 121, an increase of 1.6 per cent. over 1910. There was an increase in 65 counties, and the Cabarrus increase was almost the smallest of all the 65 counties. In 35 counties there was a decrease.

However, in the State as a whole there has been a large increase and Mr. Hobbs predicts that if the 1910-25 trend has continued we are ahead of all the States ex-

cept Mississippi. North Carolina increased her farms during the 1910-25 period faster than all the other States except three; she increased her farm tenants faster than any other State except one, and she led all the States in increase of negro farmers. In fact the increase of farms was very largely an increase of farm tenants and negro farmers.

During the 1910-25 period North Carolina, with a net gain of 15,310 farms operated by negroes, had the largest increase of negro farmers of any State. The second largest increase was in Texas. Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina experienced large losses of negro farmers, due to the ravages of the boll weevil. Many of these negroes moved to North Carolina, which has not been so hard hit by the boll weevil, and which has a second crop attractive to negroes and suited to tenancy—tobacco.

Between 1910 and 1925 thirty-five counties in the State lost negro farmers, while sixty-five gained, the net gain being 15,310, as has been stated. The thirty-five counties experiencing decreases are eighteen mountain counties, seven tidewater counties and ten others in the western half of the State. These thirty-five counties had a loss of 2,061 negro farmers. The sixty-five counties in which negro

farms increased had an increase of 17,371 negro farmers. The sixty-five counties experiencing increases almost without exception grow either cotton or tobacco, or both crops. The largest numerical increases were in Nash with a gain of 1,169, Pitt 1,143, and Edgecombe 826 negro farmers. These are three adjoining counties in the very heart of the combination cotton-tobacco belt. The largest per cent gain was in Washington with 93.3 per cent. The largest per cent. decrease was in Graham with 94.1.

During this fifteen-year period, for the entire state, farms operated by whites increased from 188,069 to 202,516, an increase of 7.6 per cent. The farms operated by negroes increased from 65,656 to 80,996, or an increase of 23.3 per cent. In other words, the rate of increase of negro farmers was slightly more than three times the rate of increase of white farmers. The farms operated by negroes in 1925 were 28.5 per cent. of all farms in the State, the ratio having risen from 25.8 per cent. in 1910.

The negro farmers who own their farms are 27.3 per cent. of all negro farmers. The ownership ratios are highest in the western part of the State, and lowest in the combination cotton-tobacco belt. In other words, negro farm tenancy and negro population density and ratios are highly correlated. The larger the negro ratio the higher the rate of negro tenancy.

In 1925 there were 80,996 farms in the State operated by negroes. While we rank fifth in negro farmers, there is really only one State, Mississippi, that has a much larger number than North Carolina. We are close behind Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and Texas.

**ENTERPRISE**

*High Point, N.C.*

**APR 25 1929**

**AN UNWHOLESOME SIGN  
IN AGRICULTURE.**

The News Letter of the University of North Carolina points out the increase in the number of farm tenants in North Carolina from 1910 to 1925. It shows

**North Carolina**

that although the number of farmers in the state has increased during that period by 29,575, only 8,790 of these are farm owners while 20,967 are tenants.

The greatest percentage of farm tenancy is in the coastal plain counties and the smallest percentage is in the mountain counties. Negro farmers now constitute 45.9 percent of all tenants in North Carolina as compared with 40 percent in 1900.

Commenting editorially on this unwholesome state of North Carolina's agriculture, the Charlotte News says:

"The increase in our tenancy on the farms is significant of the trend in rural life in North Carolina today. Here is a giant evil of our state and the bane of our agricultural existence. What boots it to argue for diversity, for living at home, for dairying, for trucking and for all those variations of life on the farm, when we have a condition of tenancy that will make it impossible for such diversification ever to come about?

"It looks, therefore, as if we are barking up the wrong tree in our advocacy of these virtues as solvents of our agricultural ills. We had better turn our attention to the germs of the trouble and try to eradicate these before we attack the external symptoms on our farm body."



## Condition of FARM HOMES IN N. C.

The last meeting of the North Carolina Club at the University was devoted to a consideration of North Carolina's Farm Homes, a paper on the subject being presented by Professor Paul W. Wager. Extracts from his paper follow.

Anyone riding across the state over one of the state highways must be impressed by the number of new farm houses. Indeed so many of the buildings are new that he wonders what the countryside could have looked like years ago. Most of these new homes are modest bungalows or semi-bungalows. Thanks to the exigencies of his pocket book the average builder of a farm house with lower ceilings, fewer and smaller rooms, and less spacious porches than the houses of a generation ago. The buildings are less ornate and more comfortable. It is unfortunate, however, that so many of them lack the modern conveniences that a farm home may now contain. Kitchen sinks with running water, and indoor toilet facilities are still rare. Electric lights are not common except in a few areas, notably in Cleveland county. While these things cost more in the country than in the city the cost is not prohibitive.

It is unfortunate, too, that so many of these new homes lack the trees and shrubs and landscaping necessary to give them setting. It is not uncommon to see a new house that is rather attractive structurally set on a bare, red knoll without a tree or shrub to soften and color the picture. It may be that trees have been planted that will eventually provide shade and beauty; but why could not the house have been placed among the trees in the first place? When one builds on a city lot he does not have the choice of location that the farmer usually has. The home demonstrators are doing a fine work both in suggesting kitchen improvements and in encouraging the beautification of the home grounds.

### Center of Family Life

Any home ought to be more than a shelter and a farm home can be made especially attractive. The work, the play, the study, the business of the farm family is concentrated more in the home than is the case with a city

family. There is thus the more reason in agriculture as in other industries why the furnishings, the appearance, the atmosphere of a farm home be such that it will create a spirit of unity, a sense of appreciation, and an abiding affection on the part of each member. There are disintegrating forces today which tend to break down family unity unless there be counter unifying forces. The automobile and the village movie may be disintegrating influences unless the parents are wise enough to enjoy them with the children. The radio, the well-selected library, and good magazines will tend to hold the young people in the home. It is not so much that make a home, however, but the atmosphere in a home if the mother is less overworked, the father discouraged, else the children dissatisfied. Common interests, sharing of responsibility, fullest cooperation on the part of father, mother, and children are all necessary. The children must share in the work and the parents must share in the play. All must love the home and its surroundings and contribute to their improvement.

### Southern Homes Inferior

To give a picture of farm life in North Carolina Professor Wager described living conditions among white land-owner operators in Wake county, the home life of the mountaineers, the poverty and hopelessness of the farm tenants of the east, and the home of a typical Master Farmer. He also described the farms and farm homes of the Northeastern counties, expressing the opinion that they were the most attractive in the state.

Taken as a whole the farm homes of the South are inferior to those of the North and West. The value of buildings is \$811 per farm in North Carolina and \$1,781 in the United States as a whole. Forty-two states rank ahead of North Carolina in the value of all buildings per farm.

In conclusion, Professor Wager said that there were many writers and observers who were saying that it was idle to hope for the perpetuation of the individual farmstead, occupied, cultivated, and improved by the owner. They maintain that the one-man or two-men farms are economically unsound and that we may look for specialization and large-scale produc-

### Community Farming As Dr. Branson Sees It

Dr. E. C. Branson, Kenan professor of rural economics at the University of North Carolina, is again proclaiming that coordinated or directed farm communities are the way by which the Southern farmer may come into a fuller and more prosperous life and at the same time enrich the South. This time his proclamation is circulated by the United States Government, with the explanation that it is an opinion submitted by Dr. Branson in his capacity as economic investigator of the Southern Reclamation Conference cooperating with the Federal Department of the Interior. And here is the inspiration and foundation of the Branson plan: "It is difficult to make farming a profitable business. It is even more difficult to make farming a satisfactory way of life. Both ideals call for farm owners grouped in colonies and busy solving together the economic and social problems of farm life and livelihood."

Each planned and directed rural settlement, says this eminent authority on the subject, should have land sufficient for at least two hundred farms, an area large enough to give it an agriculture independent of the surrounding country. It should embrace only good land or land whose soil can quickly be made fertile. This land should be bought wholesale, subdivided into farms of suitable size and sold at cost, with terms of purchase long and interest rate low. Everything possible, such as buying, selling and arranging crops, should be done on the cooperative plan.

"It is fairly easy," Dr. Branson continues, "to find in any Southern State advantageously located bodies of prime farm land ranging from 8,000 to 15,000 acres belonging to single owners. In a State like North Carolina, which contains 22,000,000 idle wilderness acres, there are 15,000,000 acres which were once the best farm lands of the State. "A most important consideration is the location of these farm colonies in alert social areas. They ought not to be located in regions where life has been in the doldrums for the last

half-century, no matter how fertile the land," for the big problem in connection with such colonies is that "of creating social values in farm regions."

Dr. Branson is backed by a large body of expert opinion in his contention that the directed, cooperative farm community offers the South its best opportunity to realize its great agricultural possibilities. Nobody has advanced a better plan, doubtless because Dr. Branson is admittedly the outstanding authority on the condition he here discusses.—Asheville Citizen.

MAR 19 1929

### OUR NEGRO FARMERS

Wayne county ranks eighteenth among the counties in the state in the number of Negro farmers, according to statistics presented by S. H. Hobbs, Jr., in the University of North Carolina News Letter. In 1925 there were 1,925 Negro farm operators in Wayne. There was a 43.6 percent increase between the years of 1910-25.

Prof. Hobbs declares that few are familiar with the degree to which North Carolina farms are operated by Negroes, or the rapidity with which our Negro farmers have increased within recent years.

In 1925 there were 80,966 farms in the state operated by Negroes. While we rank fifth in Negro farmers, there is really only one state, Mississippi, that has a much larger number than North Carolina. We are close behind Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and Texas, and if the 1910-25 trend has continued we are ahead of all the states except Mississippi. The 1930 census will tell.

Between 1910 and 1925 thirty-five counties in the state lost Negro farmers, while sixty-five gained, the net gain being 15,310, as has been stated. The thirty-five counties experiencing decreases are eighteen mountain counties, seven tidewater counties and ten others in the western half of the state. These thirty-five counties had a loss of 2,061 Negro farmers. The sixty-five coun-



ties in which Negro farms increased had an increase of 17,371 Negro farmers. The sixty-five counties experiencing increases almost without exception grow either cotton or tobacco, or both crops. The largest numerical increases were in Nash with a gain of 1,169, Pitt, 1,143, and Edgecombe 826 Negro farmers. These are three adjoining counties in the very heart of the combination cotton-tobacco belt. The largest percent gain was in Washington with 93.3 per cent. The largest percent decrease was in Graham with 94.1.

During this fifteen-year period, for the entire state, the farms operated by whites increased from 188,069 to 202,516, an increase of 7.6 per cent. The farms operated by Negroes increased from 65,656 to 80,966, or an increase of 23.3 per cent. In other words, the rate of increase of Negro farmers was slightly more than three times the rate of increase of white farmers. The farms operated by Negroes in 1925 were 28.5 percent of all farms in the state, the ratio having risen from 25.8 percent in 1910.

The Negro framers who own their farms are 27.3 percent of all Negro farmers. The ownership ratios are highest in the western part of the state, and lowest in the combination cotton-tobacco belt. In other words, Negro farm tenancy and Negro population density and ratios are highly correlated. The larger the Negro ratio the higher the rate of Negro tenancy.

The article by Prof. Hobbs on Negro farmers is the third in the News Letter in which he has studied the farm question from as many angles. In the current issue he gives his conclusion, a conclusion which one who has followed his studies must agree with, and a conclusion such as to give pause for sobre reflection. Says Prof. Hobbs:

"The chances for the type of agriculture that North Carolina needs, and for the type of rural civilization we would wish her to achieve, have not been enhanced by the drift of the last two decades, especially in the eastern and southern parts of the state. Especially unfortunate is the enormous increase of farm tenancy in Eastern

North Carolina where tenancy ratios already were excessive. In that great cash-crop belt nearly seventy percent of all farms are now operated by tenants, and the rate rises year by year. The tax problem, the school problem, the voting problems, and all other social-economic problems of that region are largely the products of excessive land-essness and homelessness."

Phyllis, N. C., Beacon  
Friday, March 22, 1929

## Only Few Know Number Of Farms Owned By Negroes

Few are familiar with the degree to which Washington county farms are operated by Negroes, or the rapidity with which Negro farmers have increased within recent years.

Between 1910 and 1925 the number of Negro operators of farms in this county increased 93.3 percent. In 1925 there were 459 Negro farmers in the county. It is generally thought that this increase has continued from 1925 to 1929 with a greater proportionate increase.

Many Negroes in this county own their own farms. They are getting more independent in their dealings as they are gradually increasing in wealth even in this county. Washington county is very little different from many other counties in the State in connection with this matter. It is a commonly known fact that much of this interesting information in regards to the increasing wealth of the Negro is visible here.

It is also an established fact that this State as well as this county is increasing the number of farms. Those large plantations that were so prominent in the ante-bellum age have given away to the smaller farmer as the real estate agencies have cut the large farms up into smaller ones which gives the small farmer a chance to own his own farm.

**TIMES**  
RALEIGH, N. C.

APR 12 1929

### NEGRO OWNERSHIP FARM LANDS WHOLLY BENEFICENT PROCESS

We see quoted from the Elizabeth City Independent a point of view respecting the negro that is to our mind astounding. It is nothing less than an apparent protest against the increase in number of those members of the race in the process of achieving land-ownership:

Negro ownership of farms in North Carolina shows an alarming increase. The net increase of negro farm owners in North Carolina for the ten-year period of 1910-1925 was 15,310. North Carolina farms are passing into the hands of negro farmers at the rate of 1,531 a year.

I call this increase in negro farm ownership alarming because the blight of agriculture in North Carolina today is too many backward farmers. The white farmers in North Carolina taken as a whole are a backward lot. The negro is generally several steps behind the white man.

The average negro in his laudable desire to own land and establish his citizenship too often impoverishes both himself and the land in the effort to acquire the land. He can't improve the soil; he has put his all into the acquisition of it and thenceforth for years to come it is a struggle for him to get a living out of the soil, with nothing to put back into the soil. The result is less productive farm lands, a retarded agriculture.

Nothing is going to stop the negro from farm ownership. He finds a pride, a satisfaction and a sense of security in the ownership of a farm that few white men can understand or appreciate. And he is going to continue to reach out for more and more farms. As more and more white farmers move into towns, more and more negroes will move on to the farms. White owners, when they decide to sell their farms, are not adverse to finding negro buyers, for negroes keep up their payments. A negro may neglect his store account or a cash financial obligation, but he will meet his payments on real estate. A large and larger increase in negro farm ownership in North Carolina is inevitable.

The negro already is in the definite process of being lost to farming as the laborer or the tenant of the white man. If he does not become attached to the soil, he leaves the State or migrates to the city job. If he is to remain on the land in numbers, it must be by the process of becoming fixed to land as an owner.

Particularly from the point of view of the cultivation of lands in large part left waste and from that of relieving the white population from the negro as burden, negro ownership is the solution from within of a problem that has proved unsolvable from without.

largest cotton county in the state, must be given due credit for a part of this county's high ranking nowadays in the

agricultural world, for in Cleveland county there are negro farmers unexcelled anywhere in the country. The transformation of the negro farm-hand of the old days, indolent, lacking sticking qualities, and unambitious, into farmers who take an interest in their work and strive to equal the white race in farm production has been remarkable. Cleveland county could not possibly be on top of the state in cotton production today if it were not for the negroes, and in the listing of the county's many bale-to-the-acre farmers quite a number of hustling negro farmers and tenants should not be overlooked.

### THE NEGRO FARMER

FROM 1910 to 1925 the increase in negro farmers in North Carolina was greater than in any state in the union, and in the increase Cleveland county ranked 19th in the 100 counties of the state. A portion of the credit for North Carolina's agricultural advance in the last decade is rightly credited to increased farm progress among the negroes and in the increase in farms being operated by negroes. In like manner the negro farmers of Cleveland county, now the

Stacy  
Shelley  
MAR 20 1929



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**TIMES**  
**RALEIGH, N. C.**

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Stacy  
Shelby, D.C.

MAR 20 1929



Agriculture - 1929

Virginia.

Condition of  
**Farm Relief Only**  
**Gloomy Generality**  
**Says Tom Connally**

UNIVERSITY, VA., Aug. 9.—(P)—De-  
claring that farm relief remains a  
"gloomy generality" as well as a "po-  
litical football," United States Senator  
Tom Connally, of Texas, told attendants  
upon the institute of public affairs of  
the University of Virginia here tonight  
that the export debenture plan is the  
one plan that can help both to dispose  
of the exportable surplus of the farmer,  
and at the same time place him some-  
what upon a plane of equality with in-  
dustry.

This plan, Senator Connally explained,  
is based upon the theory that since the  
farmer must sell his goods in a world  
free competitive market, he should in  
theory be allowed to exchange in that  
market manufactured goods and bring  
them back into this country duty free.  
In order to obviate the mechanics and  
practical obstacles which would be met  
in such process, this plan, he said, pro-  
vides that when he exports his products,  
the treasury will issue him a certificate  
and he can tender that certificate at  
the customs house in payment of tariff  
duties upon imported goods.

The Texas senator held that this plan  
would raise the price of the farmer's  
goods and would not take directly from  
the treasury a single dollar. It proposes,  
he asserted, to give back to the farmer  
a portion of what he charged the tariff  
has been continuously taking out of his  
pocket.

No form of legislative relief as his sub-  
ject, will alone afford a cure for the ills  
of agriculture. In suggesting that the  
farmer provide most of the remedy for  
his salvation Senator Connally urged  
greater diversification and the produc-  
tion of articles of food and of home con-  
sumption.



Agriculture - 1929

Condition of

GAZETTE

Charleston, N. Va.

JAN 20 1929

## Colored Farmers Urged to Practice Crop Rotation

### A. W. Curtis Advises Negroes to Adopt Crops to Suit Soil

Much attention has been given in recent years to the problem of giving whatever assistance might be needed by the several thousand Negro families living on farms in West Virginia. The various agriculture agencies of the state have found this field of work offering splendid opportunities for constructive effort.

In the biennial report of the state department of agriculture, which will be off the press in a few days, Professor A. W. Curtis, director of agriculture at West Virginia Collegiate Institute, gives a summary of field work conducted by the department of agriculture under his supervision last year among the colored farmers of the state as follows:

"During the past summer I was sent out by the state department of agriculture to work among the colored farmers, primarily to help them along the line of controlling insect pests and plant diseases, and secondarily to see what other service could be rendered to improve rural life in West Virginia.

"All the counties reported as having a large number of colored farmers were visited in order to make a study of their conditions. Many towns that were thickly settled were also visited in order to find what was being done to improve the homes and in growing vegetables. All of our farmers realize the great toll exacted by plant disease and insect pests every season, and in every important farming region. Insects and plant diseases constitute a heavy handicap on crop production and are a grievous and dangerous overload on our agriculture. The estimated loss from plant diseases and insects in this state is appalling.

#### Mexican Beetles

"However, our most significant activities at present are in an effort to control the Mexican bean beetle. Demonstrations were given to farmers on how to use spray and dusting mix-

tures. We taught the importance of thoroughly applying the insecticide on the under surface of the leaves. The advantage of starting the treatment early and keeping it going was kept before the farmers who were glad to have information diffused among them.

"Many of the colored farmers have rough hill land with a shale soil and sandy soils surrounded by fertile soil with limestone formation. Successful farming requires good judgment in choosing a farm and in deciding on the type of farming. The colored farmer with his limited area of rough thin hill land attempts the same type of farming as engaged in by his white neighbor who has broad acres of limestone soil well adapted to fruit, grain and grazing. If this colored farmer is to succeed he must adapt his crops to suit the soil and the climate.

"One of the first considerations that would help to determine the attitude of of the farmer and his family toward farming, would be to consider his opinion of it as a mode of living. Are farm people satisfied with the farm home as a place to live? Do they prefer life on a farm to life in town? Can the farm home be made sufficiently attractive to hold the young people on the farm after they have had a taste of town life?

"Eighty per cent of the farmers were satisfied with farm life and preferred farming as a mode of living, but said if they did not engage in some other work part of the time they could not make ends meet. Part of the reason for this is that none of these farmers has any system of rotation of crops and therefore the available supply of certain elements is reduced and finally disappears almost wholly.

#### Crop Rotation

"When crops with different requirements are alternated, the food supply of the soil is kept in a more balanced condition. Alternation of deep and shallow-rooted crops overcomes the continuous use of only part of the soil. Nitrogen gathered from the air by legumes for instance, is used by other crops follow in the rotation. The Nitrogen, however, would be practically lost if legumes were raised continuously. The control of plant diseases, insect pests and weeds is made possible by the rotation of crops, economy in the use of man labor, horse labor and machinery result from the raising of a number of crops of the right kind on the farm. The plowing under of growing plants would increase the organic content of the soil and help to make available the mineral foods of the soil, in addition to aiding in correcting defects that exist in its physical nature. If some of the foregoing methods could put into practice with a well-planned system of the use of lime and commercial fertilizers, all of these impoverished soils could be brought back to productiveness. Then the farmer could engage in farming as a means of making a living rather than merely eking out existence.

#### Young Folks Leave

"Can the farm home be made sufficiently attractive to hold the young people on the farm after they have had a taste of town life. Practically all the farms I visited were operated by men ranging from forty years old or older, with the majority in the older

class. The young people are not returning when they get a taste of town life. In conversation with a farmer about sending his boy to college he said this, "That boy is my main dependence on the farm and I don't want to lose him. I sent one off to high school and now he doesn't want to stay on the farm."

"We should not expect all successive generations of farm families to continue to live on the farm. A few of them must go to the city to help manage this great country. Our president and president-elect were reared on the farm.

"It is not always the bright lights that attract our boys and girls, but the conveniences found in the city homes. One approach to this phase of the question was to get a cross-section of the average farm household. The women had no conveniences for doing their work, no beautiful surroundings to look out upon. Sanitary methods were very poor. There was not much reading matter for the family to enjoy, recreation was very limited, washing machines, running water, bathrooms and indoor toilet facilities were found in not more than five farm homes. Being located on the farm does not prevent people from having conveniences and comforts in the home, and attractive and pleasant surroundings. In the opinion of the folk who aspired to have these things the limiting factors were money and insufficient information concerning installation of the conveniences."



Agriculture-1929

Improvement or

## Necessity Of Efficient Marketing Facilities Pointed Out By Dr. Knapp

By P. O. DAVIS

ATMORE, ALA., Sept. 17.—(P)—Addressing a large group of Escambia County farmers here Tuesday afternoon Dr. Bradford Knapp, president of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn, declared that if agriculture as a whole is to succeed there must be a better management of agricultural affairs, particularly along the line of marketing. He added that "one of the main advantages promised by the Federal Farm Board is better distribution and more efficient marketing of farm products and that this board is endeavoring to give maximum service to the farmers of the nation through their cooperative organizations."

Dr. Knapp said that he was "shocked and surprised" to find that the delivery of cotton to the Farm Bureau Cotton Association is not as large as it should be. "Large deliveries and large business are necessary to reduce costs and be an important factor on the market," he declared.

Continuing he said, "I wish that business men and farmers as well realized that the only way yet designed by the Congress and by the thinking people of this country to help agriculture to come back to an era of prosperity is through cooperative marketing on a large scale. The president of the United States, the Congress, the Federal Farm Board and farmers' organizations representing millions of farmers believe that this is the case. Indeed, they know it is true."

"In the past there has been a very luke-warm attitude on the part of most business men toward cooperative organizations among farmers. If the farmers of Alabama and of the United States are to get full benefit of this act it is perfectly apparent that the membership in

cooperative organizations must be increased and the volume of business handled by such marketing organizations greatly augmented.

"I want to say this: No longer can men sit on dry goods boxes in town and advise farmers to stay out of cooperative organizations; no longer can the influence of great business organizations be used against the organization of farmer-owned and farmer-controlled associations for marketing and handling farm products. Now such action would be against the policy of the government. The government has declared its policy and if we are to solve the problems surely we will place ourselves in line with the policy of the government, which is to create farmers' associations for marketing."

"If we are going to get anywhere in Alabama and keep up with the procession, we must have a better balanced agriculture and produce on the average farm more than just cotton—as important as cotton is. Then we must belong to and avail ourselves of the services of every national organization perfected by the government to help farmers such as this Federal Farm Board, the Intermediate Credit Banks, etc. To do this we must be organized into cooperative organizations of farmers and the quicker business men, bankers, and farmers realize this and begin to develop the intelligence, the ability and the confidence necessary to deal in this way, the quicker we are going to get results."

Dr. Knapp came to Atmore on the invitation of the Lions' Club of which Tup Lucas is president. He addressed the club at their luncheon Tuesday. Immediately thereafter he spoke to a large audience of farmers assembled in the local theater.

## Power Company To Spend Million For Expansion Of Rural Service

New Lines To Serve Approximately 2,000 People In Forty Counties; Farm Electrification Program For 1930 To Place Alabama In Front Rank Of Progressive States.

By A. B. TUCKER

Construction of 69 additional transmission lines into rural communities of the matter of electrification of the farms. Alabama to serve approximately 2,000 During the past year hundreds of homes new customers in 40 counties have been in small towns as well as out on farms authorized by officials of the Alabama Power Company, according to information from the Birmingham office. The cost of this construction is estimated to run about the million dollar electric motor.

This program of expansion for 1930 home and barn is now being pumped by an electrically driven machine instead of the noisy gasoline engine or the more

laborious hand power pump. Small municipal plants or those operated on a small scale by local individuals have been supplanted by the hydro-electric transmission lines which bring the current from one of the dams on the Coosa or Tallapoosa Rivers.

Water which formerly moved limpidly along toward the Gulf furnishing only fishing streams for anglers is now turning the wheels of industry and lighting thousands of Alabama homes.

The 69 new lines and those projected and authorized for the remaining months of 1929 will extend for a total distance of 649 miles and will carry electric service into seven counties not now served. Including the extensions to be made in 1930, lines projected for completion at the end of the current year and lines now in operation, Alabama at the end of 1930 can boast of 442 strictly rural lines extending 1,446 miles and serving 9,841 customers in all but nine of the 67 counties of the state.

### Rapid Progress Made

The company's statement further shows that the 1930 program will bring the total number of rural customers, including those served in small, unincorporated rural communities, to approximately 25,000, probably the largest number served in any state in the length of time Alabama has enjoyed service of this kind, according to information available.

Counties to get service under the 1930 program are Autauga, Baldwin, Barbour, Blount, Butler, Calhoun, Chambers, Clay, Colbert, Coosa, Cullman, DeKalb, Elmore, Escambia, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Geneva, Hale Henry, Jackson, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lee, Limestone, Macon, Madison, Marengo, Mobile, Montgomery, St. Clair, Shelby, Sumpter, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa and Wilcox.

The seven counties scheduled to receive their first rural service between now and the end of next year are Clay, Cullman, DeKalb, Henry, Russell, Wilcox and Winston.

Here are some of the interesting facts brought out in the power company's report, all of which tend to show the increasing popularity of electricity in rural sections, how this modern force is removing farm home drudgery and what it is doing to make "farming an industry."

### Jefferson County Leads

Jefferson County leads the state in number of customers and existing lines, having a total of 56 lines and 2,444 customers, while Mobile County is second in number of lines, having 28. Fourteen additional lines will be built in Jefferson between now and Dec. 31, 1930, while Mobile County is scheduled to get four new lines during the same period of time.

Elmore County is second in point of customers, with a total of 353.

Three hundred and five cotton gins are electrified. Of this number 92 are classed as strictly rural gins, while 213 are located in cities or small communities.

Thirty-five additional gins will be electrified in 1930, bringing the total to 340, which is probably the largest number in any cotton growing state.

To determine the extent to which farm homes utilize electric service, the Com-

pany's Rural Division surveyed 3,031 customers and found 20 types of devices in use, including 86 churns, 392 fans, 2,089 irons, 442 ranges, 383 radios, 309 refrigerators, 59 sewing machines, 60 washing machines, 493 pumps and 47 water heaters.

Other appliances in use are battery chargers, curling irons, dish washers, grills, hot plates, percolators, heaters, toasters, vacuum cleaners and waffle irons.

## Cotton Acreage Curb Coming, Says Williams

Cooperative Marketing Demands It, Farmers Are Told

## 600 Hear Talk Of Farm Board Member At Auditorium

Banding together in a cooperative organization is the only way the cotton farmers of the South will get any help from the Government, or will be able to help themselves according to the message brought by Carl Williams of the federal farm board to an assemblage of 600 Alabamians interested in agriculture at the City Auditorium Thursday morning.

Mr. Williams said that cooperation in marketing will ultimately result in complete control of surplus agricultural products, including cotton and that eventually control of production will be brought about. Mr. Williams made this statement in answer to a question of E. A. Keeler of Montgomery who wanted to know if the government could extend aid to the farmer without control of surpluses and control of production.

"The farm board does not believe there is too much cotton," said Mr. Williams, "but on the other hand believes, and has said, that cotton is too low."

Mr. Williams said the farm board is ready to lend money on cotton at 16 cents a pound because the government believes cotton is worth that much. "And we are lending from a revolving fund," said Mr. Williams. "A revolving fund means that the money must come back to the government and it must come back with interest."

Mr. Williams reached the auditorium meeting forty minutes late as a result of a plane in which he was making the trip to Montgomery being forced down at Tuskegee because of rain and low

visibility. When he arrived he found Edward A. O'Neal, Dr. Bradford Knapp Gov. Graves, Lieut. Gov. W. C. Davis, L. N. Duncan and Tyler Goodwyn occupying the stage and waiting for him.

Edward O'Neal, President of the Alabama Farm Bureau, presided. He called on Tyler Goodwyn, representing the City and Gov. Graves, representing the State, to welcome the speaker. He asked Dr. Bradford Knapp to introduce Mr. Williams because of the long friendship existing between Dr. Knapp and the federal board member.

Dr. Knapp paid Mr. Williams a high compliment and said he was sincere in his efforts to aid agriculture and the cotton farmer and that he had the ability to be of assistance in the crisis now confronting the cotton farmer.

### Pioneer Step.

Mr. Williams began by saying "This is the first time any government in the history of the world has ever set up a fund from the pockets of its taxpayers to aid any one industry. It is the first time public money has ever been used to benefit a class. It is proposed to lift this industry, agriculture, out of the depression. And I can tell you the farm board members represent the farmers and nobody else. Some have called this bill the 'Farm Relief' bill. But there is nothing in the bill about farm relief. It is an agricultural marketing act. The bill gives the broadest power it is possible to give to the members of the farm board. It has the word 'may' running all through it and only once does the word 'shall' appear and that is when the bill says the members of the board shall not speculate in agricultural products."

### Six And Half Million.

"We have made a study and it shows farmers in 48 states and dependencies with an output of 12 1-2 billions of dollars worth of agricultural products each year. And our survey and study shows that every agricultural crop has its own particular set of problems and all different. The problem of the apple grower of Oregon is not that of the rice grower of Louisiana nor is the problem of the wheat farmer of the West the problem of the cotton grower of the South. I think that perhaps cotton presents the hardest problem of them all. Cotton is grown under varying conditions and from excess rainfall to irrigation. There is every type of cotton farmer and every type of soil and every type of credit."

### Acreage Big Problem.

"And the cotton problem varies in different localities. One of our big problems, maybe the biggest is the increase in cotton acreage. There has been a 50 per cent increase in acreage since 1920. And while the acreage East of the Mississippi River has stood about the same, the acreage West of the river has increased enormously."

"The acreage of cotton in the United States is divided 65 per cent West of the Mississippi River and 35 per cent East of the river. The reason for the big increase in acreage in Texas and Oklahoma west of the river is the cost of production. It costs five cents more per pound as an average East of the river and in some instances the difference is 10 cents per pound. The difference in production costs is the dif-



ference in the land. West of the river they don't have to spend money on fertilizer. The land is level, has less rainfall which reduces the cost of working the crop because the grass don't grow fast. And the Western farmer will work 120 acres of cotton by himself in many instances. The average acreage farmed by one man West of the river is 50 while East of the river it is 20."

"Now what would the federal farm board do if it fixed the price of cotton? To make a fair price that would enable the farmer East of the river to make money the price would be so high that it would be exorbitant for the farmer West of the river. And while the acreage West of the river has increased enormously, there are 19,000,000 more acres out there covered with buffalo grass now and not in production that would be opened up and planted to cotton if the price was above a reasonable profit. And in this connection I want to call your attention to the fact that the quality of cotton is declining year by year. And the decline in quality is greater in the Southeast than it is west of the river."

"Now as we get back to the important subject of marketing I want to say that we can only help those who help themselves. The farm board is compelled to do business with the cooperative farm organizations. And that is where the farmer can help himself, by banding himself with these organizations to produce orderly marketing. The farm problem began in 1820 when animal drawn farm machinery was invented. Then the farmer began to make more than he could consume himself and the problem was the surplus. And he has gone on making more and more with more and more modern and improved machinery and the problem of the surplus has grown rapidly."

"Now the problem of how to dispose of what we do not need is the old problem the farmers have faced. Not in sixty years have farmers made anything off their productions. Their profits have grown from the increased value of their lands. But we must realize that land is worth no more than it will yield in produce at a fair profit. The farmer must make money out of his production rather than out of increased land value. It is the question of orderly marketing which we must work out to make it possible for the farmer to make a profit on what he produces."

#### Farmers Must Unite

"The government has authorized a \$500,000,000 revolving fund. That money was given to us to use as an instrument and not as an end. That money was for the benefit of the class, the agricultural class! And that class must organize to get the benefit of that money. No money has ever been appropriated to a class that ever did any good unless the class was organized to receive it and use it. And so it is with the farmer. We are lending money to such organizations as the Alabama Farm Bureau and the Alabama Farm Bureau Cotton Association, problem and endeavor to solve it. such as you have here. There are 2, 100,000 farmers growing cotton from North Carolina to California. Manifestly it is impossible for us to deal with each of these individually so we deal with the farm organization."

Mr. Williams called attention to the cheap cotton that is being raised in India by ten cents per day labor. "And the quality of this Indian cotton is improving and we are having to meet this

competition and that is another big problem," he said.

Mr. Williams stressed the fact that the Farm Board will only deal with commodities and not with local situations. "Now look at wheat," he said. "We found 6,000 cooperatives with elevators selling wheat to the terminal markets in competition with each other. And we told them we could not help them until they got together. And they have gotten together and they will control 60 per cent of the wheat crop of the world before they get through and then they can fix the price, or at least be on even terms with the buyer. And that is what you must do with your cotton organizations. There are eleven of them now but I hope by this time next year you will have one central cotton association handling your cotton and that it will be sold through one man. Then you will be on even terms with the buyer, and not till then."

"And the act gives us not only power to deal with cooperative organizations," said Mr. Williams, "but it gives us power to exercise supervision over them. In other words when we lend them money we are going to see to it that we get it back and we are going to see to it that the cooperatives run their organizations efficiently and economically and to the direct benefit of the farmers who are members and who compose them. We propose to have examiners, something like national bank examiners, who will look into the affairs of these cooperative organizations to which we extend financial aid."

"We must have a partnership between the government and the farmer," said Mr. Williams. "We cannot help you unless you evince a willingness to be helped and meet us half way. And the way for you to get help is to join your cooperative cotton association right now. You will notice that cotton is falling in New York. It is falling because of the disorganized selling of cotton on the market. And I want to let you know now when you join a cooperative we are going to lend money only on that cotton that is pooled seasonally. We are not going to lend money on cotton that is pooled optionally, that is where the owner can order it sold at any time he sees fit."

#### Appeals For Aid

Concluding his address, Mr. Williams said, "I come to ask for your aid. I come in the interest of the cotton farmer. I want the aid of the cotton farmer and the Farm Board wants the aid of the cotton farmer."

At the conclusion of his speech, Mr. Williams answered three or four questions from the audience. He told Baldwin County Irish potato growers that the Farm Board could do nothing for them because their problem was a local problem but the government, he said, will take up Irish potatoes as a commodity and with a nationwide outlook upon the problem and endeavor to solve it.

"Do you think," asked E. A. Beeler, the sheep expert of Montgomery County, "that farm aid can be effectually given without control of the surplus and without control of production in the long run?"

"In the long run," answered Mr. Williams, "I would say it cannot. In the short run it can. We can help temporarily, but in the long run one of our aims

is the control of surplus and production."

Answering another question Mr. Williams told Mr. Beeler that the proper way for farmers to insure economically conducted cooperative organizations was to join them and take part in their affairs.



Agriculture—1929  
Improvement

# Alabamian Suggests New Farm Equalization Plan

By J. F. DUGGAR, Jr.  
Montgomery, Ala.

To place agriculture on an economic equality with industry is essential to the permanent prosperity of the nation. Evidence of the sincere efforts to accomplish this most complicated solution is found in the passage during the last session of Congress of the McNary-Haugen bill, which would now be a law except for the veto of President Coolidge.

Another noteworthy proposal for farm relief is the Debenture Plan, which was embodied in the Ketchum bill, presented to the last Congress. The Debenture Plan was endorsed by the National Grange, the McNary-Haugen bill was supported by the Farm Bureau.

The strong and weak points of both plans have been ably presented by their advocates and critics, and hence this paper refrains from discussing the basic principles of either.

In spite of the prohibition in the Federal Constitution against the levying of an export duty, eminent economists have quoted decisions of the Supreme Court that seem to sustain the constitutionality of the main feature of the Debenture bill. Indeed many authorities believe that its constitutional difficulties are less serious than those of the other bill mentioned. The Debenture Plan provides a means for granting to the growers of certain agricultural products which are not protected by an existing tariff a financial advantage, under certain limited conditions that would serve to place such producers on an economic equality with manufacturers now protected by the tariff. The essential feature is the paying of a bonus on certain agricultural exports.

The writer's analysis of both plans have led him to the conclusion that the best features of each can be consolidated into one bill, without including those details that have encountered greatest opposition especially the equalization fee. This proposed consolidation constitutes the plan here presented in briefest outline.

The necessary machinery may well be almost entirely the same as proposed in the McNary-Haugen bill. First, there would be necessary a conservative tariff on the agricultural commodities to be equalized with industry, as in the McNary-Haugen plan. In the second place a Farm Board should be constituted with functions as proposed in that bill.

The first or fundamental deviation would be in the matter as to when the Farm Board should export agricultural commodities. Under the Duggar Plan, here outlined, a surplus would be considered as existing in a commodity whenever the tariff on that commodity was not fully effective; under such conditions the Farm Board would be required to export that commodity, (directly or through licensed exporters) on which the tariff should then be not fully effective. It would be enabled to do this by means of funds obtainable in the manner outlined below, in which detail lies the heart of this plan.

From time to time as may be fixed in the law, the Farm Board would raise such funds by offering for public competitive sale its Debentures; these credit papers would be receivable by the Federal Government in payment for import duties on items of agriculture and industry to be specified by the law. They could be made usable in paying import duty for tariff rates only on articles such as steel, clothes, manufactured cotton and silk goods, sulphate ammonia, the agricultural commodities that ought to be equalized, and in general all imports that compete seriously with American production. They would not be received in payment of duty on raw silk, tea, coffee and other imports not competing with American products.

Accordingly the Farm Board would export the agricultural commodities that are to be equalized whenever the tariff on these commodities is not in full operation and when the financial deficit of the board due to the export of agricultural commodities at a loss can be met through the sale of debentures of the nature above outlined. A minimum percentage par value, say 90 or 95 per cent, would be specified by law below which such debentures must not be sold. This is to create a demand for this class of paper by importers, by making their use profitable.

A hypothetical example of the Board's activity will now be described. Suppose the Liverpool cotton market is to be 15 cents (freight equalized to New York) and the New York market to be 15 cents and that the amount of the tariff on cotton to be made effective had been fixed at 3 cents per pound on a basis of middling cotton. Since the foreign and domestic prices are equal in this assumed case, it is evident that this commodity is then receiving no protection from any tariff schedule that may cover it. Therefore under the plan proposed, the Farm Board would now automatically buy, in the domestic market, a fraction of the cotton surplus, and would ship it abroad, directly or through its licensed private exporter. As the price consequently advances in the domestic market, a loss to the Board would accrue. The sale of debentures would provide the funds to cover this loss to the Board or to its licensed private exporters.

Let it be supposed that after a series of such purchases from the surplus the price of cotton had advanced to 18 cents on the New York market while remaining 15 cents on the Liverpool market (freight being equalized to New York). Automatically the Farm Board and its licensees would cease to export under such price conditions, as cotton would now be fully protected by the tariff. (That part of the tariff might be made effective).

But in the event of the difference (freight equalized between the foreign and domestic market becoming less than the amount of the effective tariff assumed here to be 3 cents, the Farm Board would again export cotton until the price in the United States should rise to the point where a 3 cent differential should again have been attained.

Let it now be supposed in the above case fixed differential (tariff equivalent) in favor of that the price of foreign and domestic cotton warranted the Farm Board in exporting cotton, but that upon offering debentures for sale to the public it was found that the debentures would not bring the minimum price specified and hence, no class pressure could be brought by law. In this case the Farm Board would have no funds with which to export cotton at a loss and hence, for the time being, it could not itself make exports.

What would be the economic condition of industry that would cause no demand for debentures, and hence a temporary inability of the Farm Board to export agricultural commodities? Such a disabling condition could be due to but one thing, namely, surplus production in the industries with which agriculture is to be equalized. Here agriculture would cease to need relief, it and industry being on an economic parity, both having a surplus and neither being effectively protected by current tariff schedule. However, the instant the industrial surplus was relieved, and the protective tariff again became effective for industry, a demand would be created for debentures, by the sale of which the board would be able to resume exporting and then again to relieve agriculture of its surplus, until domestic prices rose to a point equal to the full intended protection by this indirect form of tariff. Through such balance and industry true equalization would be obtained for agriculture.

It is self-evident that all the agricultural commodities which are to be equalized with industry should receive, when distressed by temporary over-production, its due share of the proceeds from the sale of debentures.

A simple solution of such apportionment of funds among, let us say cotton, wheat and corn might be as follows:

If cotton lacked 1 cent per pound of full tariff protection, which would be the case when the Liverpool market was 15 cents (freight equalized to New York) and the New York market was 17 cents, (the assumed tariff on cotton being 3 cents), then it would be off one-seventeenth in price. Suppose wheat figured in the same manner, was two-seventeenth off in price and corn off three-seventeenth, then the proceeds from the sale of debentures would be divided among cotton, wheat and corn in the ratio of one to two to three. When a commodity is receiving its full tariff protection its share of debenture funds automatically becomes zero.

The proposed consolidated Duggar Plan of Farm Equalization seems to have the following points of advantage over the recently vetoed bill. (1) Elimination of the equalization fee; (2) Because of this elimination a much smaller bureau personnel would be required; (3) General economic conditions would render its operation to a large extent automatic, thus removing partisan and interested pressure on the Board as to when it should export or cease exporting any commodity. (4) Tendency to over-production, (inherent in any increase of price) would be minimized, since the price would remain on a world basis plus a small

The following advantages over the Debenture Bill are claimed for the Duggar Plan:

- (1) The issuance of Debentures is automatic and hence, no class pressure could be brought to bear on the Farm Board in this matter.
- (2) The business of exporters would not be disrupted, since when acting under the license of the Board they would export as usual, and for the temporary periods when they should be come in effect agents for the Farm Board they would be protected by the Board against price differential abroad in the same manner as the Board would be itself.
- (3) The export debentures issued under the Ketchum Bill would influence only indirectly the price of agricultural commodities; whereas in the Duggar Plan the Government would act, at least in the main, as broker for the sale of debentures, and the proceeds would be used directly and in the most effective way to elevate the temporarily depressed price of agricultural commodities not then receiving their due share of tariff protection.

Most of the objections pointed out by President Coolidge in his veto of the McNary-Haugen Bill are overcome in the Duggar Plan. May we not assume its essential features might meet the approval of President Hoover, since it is in effect an extension to agriculture of his general tariff policies?

The relative efficiency of this plan would become greater as the tariff soars higher and higher. Finally the combination into one bill of the conflicting measures sponsored by the Farm Bureau and the National Grange should occupy a strategic legislative and political position.

## Orion Ginning Season Is Opened By Negro

ORION, ALA., Aug. 21.—(Special)—Orion opened its ginning season Tuesday, the first bale being ginned for Willis Parham, negro farmer on the plantation of W. B. Tolmar and Son. The first sales from this section were produced by A. G. McLeod and shipped to Troy the past week for ginning.

## Dothan Extends Electric Lines Power Company's Rural Projects No Interference

DOTHAN, ALA., May 31.—(Special)—With all differences adjusted and a thorough working agreement reached, the City of Dothan and the Alabama Power Company are both going forward with extension and expansion plans as originally mapped out. What appeared Wednesday to be a rift in the friendly relations existing between the municipality and the corporation developed into only a little misunderstanding.

Business in this section which the city was developing, consequently a petition was prepared to ask the Alabama Public Service Commission to intervene. When the interested parties reached a conference today a settlement was reached. The Alabama Power Company met with the city and the matter settled without the intervention of the Public Service Commission. Following this settlement the Dothan parties returned home satisfied. Under the present system of lighting also the city purchases electric energy from the Alabama Power Company at 1000. Later another election was held at which time the voters were asked to apportion the current to the bus-

Discussing the expansion program upon Montgomery tonight Mayor Ezell stated that the city is going ahead with its expansion program with its Alabama Power Company and that the Alabama Power Company would proceed with its plans for extension



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for public companies offering these credit papers would be received in payment for Federal Government securities.

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(3) The export debentures issued under the Bill would influence only indirectly the export of goods, whereas the export of goods would be itself.

the price of agricultural commodities would be fixed at the level of the Government plan. The Government would act, at least in the main, as broker for the sale of debentures, and the proceeds would be used directly and in the most effective way of increasing the depressed price of agricultural commodities.

Most of the objections pointed out by Mr. McNary-Hughes, his veto of the tariff protection.

The relative efficiency of this plan would be measured by the tariff soars higher

Finally the combination into one bill of the conflicting measures sponsored by the Bureau and the National Grange should be a strategic legislative and political po-

Orion Ginning Season  
Is Opened By Negro

ALABAMA and Georgia. True to the old saying, "the first to plant the seed is the first to reap the harvest," the first to plant the seed of the new cotton was the first to reap the harvest. The first to plant the seed of the new cotton was the first to reap the harvest. The first to plant the seed of the new cotton was the first to reap the harvest.

# Dothan Extension Electric Line

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and expansion of the system into the rural sections of the state. Rural electrification, it is stated, has long been the policy of the power company and "there is no conflict here," stated the mayor.

## Negro Farmer Lays His Success Upon Attention To Work

FORT DEPOSIT, ALA., June 17.—(Special).—West Hare, a Lowndes County negro farmer who owns and operates a farm near Calhoun, is one of many negro farmers of the South who makes farming a success on the small scale.

In reply to a question as to how he made farming a success, he said:

"First, I attend to my own business and let the others alone. I plant about everything that will grow on a farm that will help to make it self-sustaining, using the cotton. I make as a surplus crop only. The members of my family and myself do all the farm work, working six days a week during the grass-growing season and Sundays we spend worshipping the great Giver.

"I have always taught my children to respect our white people who are worthy and meet all our obligations promptly. Hard, faithful and honest work, attending to my own business, I feel are secrets of my success."

West operates a four-horse farm and never fails to harvest an abundance of corn, cotton, peas, potatoes, sugarcane and all minor crops. Also he has a nice herd of cattle and hogs from which he realizes a nice profit. He raises something that brings him in a little money every month during the year.

### A SUCCESSFUL NEGRO FARMER

West Hare, a Lowndes County negro farmer who owns and operates a farm near Calhoun, is one of many negro farmers of the South who makes farming a success on the small scale. Replying to a question as to how he made farming a success? His answer was, "first, I attend to my own business and let the other fellows alone. I plant about everything that will grow on a farm that will help make it self-sustaining, using the cotton. I make as a surplus crop only. The members of my family and myself do all the farm work, working six days a week during the grass growing season, and Sundays we spend worshipping the great Giver. I have always taught my children to respect our white people who are worthy and meet all obligations promptly. Hard, faithful and honest work, attending to my own business, I feel, is the secret of my success." West operates a four horse farm, and never fails to make a plenty of corn, cotton, peas, potatoes, sugar cane and all minor crops; he also has a nice herd of cattle and hogs from which he realizes a nice profit from several times a year. This negro farmer stated that he sold something he raised in the farm which would bring him in a little money every month during the year. Lowndes County farmers would be better off if its negro farmers would emulate the example set by West Hare.—Lowndes County Signal.

## Cotton Acreage In Alabama In 1929 Largest Since 1914

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 16.—(P)—Alabama farmers planted more cotton this year than in any year since 1914, a report issued by F. W. Gist, state and federal agricultural statistician here, showed. Increases in the acreage of oats, sweet potatoes and soy beans were shown while a majority of other major crops showed decreases.

A total of 7,715,000 acres were placed in cultivation this year, compared with 7,615,000 during 1928.

The report follows in detail:

"The aggregate crop acreage this year is 100,000 greater than that planted last year. The acreage to cotton is four per cent greater, while corn is reduced by one per cent. Hay is off nearly 5 per cent, while peanuts planted alone show a 7 per cent loss. Oats were increased 56 per cent and sweet potatoes 1 per cent. Irish potatoes dropped off slightly more than 18 per cent. Sorghum for syrup lost a thousand acres, which sugar cane gained. Soy beans gained 7,000 acres and cowpeas lost 3,000. These two figures refer to the acreage of these crops planted alone and do not include that planted with corn. Truck crops, not including both kinds of potatoes, lost 3,000 acres.

"The acreage planted to cotton is the largest since 1914.

"While the prospective production of corn this year is greater than last, it is still about four million bushels under the ten-year average, and will be inadequate. The condition of corn on July 1 was 76 per cent normal, compared with 60 per cent last year and a ten-year average of 79. The probable production, based on the July condition, is 37,981,000 bushels, which compares with 30,475,000 bushels harvested last year and with an average harvest of 41,735,000 for the past ten years. The farmers of Alabama seem determined to produce less corn than they need for farm consumption and buy out of their cotton money any shortage they may sustain.

"The average yield of oats this year was considerably better than last, being 20 bushels to the acre compared with 17.5 bushels last year and a ten-year average of 18.6. The total production this year was 2,587,000 bushels during the past ten years.

"The probable condition of hay this year also is very disappointing. The condition of hay on July 1 was 77 per cent of normal, indicating a production of 454,000 tons. The condition last year was 75 and the production was 473,000 tons, while the ten year average production has been 485,000 tons.

"The average yield of potatoes this year was 81 bushels per acre, compared with 77 last year and a

ten year average of 80; but owing to the severe reduction in acreage the production this year was only 2,185,000 bushels compared with 2,812,000 bushels last year and a ten year average of 2,394,000 bushels.

"Sweet potato production promises greater than last year, but less than the ten year average. The condition was 78 per cent of normal, compared with 73 last year and 82 for the ten year average, while the probable production is 6,756,000 bushels this year compared with 6,510,000 last year, and 6,965 for the ten year average.

"The production of apples this year promises a marked reduction. The condition on July 1 was only 36 compared with 60 last year and 58 for the ten year average. The probable production is 533,000 bushels this year compared with 885,000 last year and 834,000 for the ten year average.

"Peaches are much worse. The condition was only 30 and the production 540,000 bushels this year, whereas the condition last year was 76 and the production 1,350,000 bushels.

The production of pears is unpromising, with 157,000 bushels in prospect against 234,000 bushels last year and the year average of 170,000 bushels.

"Peanuts show a slightly better prospect than last year with a condition of 77 against 74 and a ten-year average of 80. The production depends both on the acreage finally harvested and the continuation of the present prospect.

"Soy beans, which mostly go into hay, show a condition of 76 against 72 last year and 80 for the past ten years.

"Cowpeas give a condition of 71 compared with 70 last year and 77 for the ten year average.

"Sorghum and sugar cane are much better than last year, with a condition of 72 and 71, respectively, against 64 and 65 last year. The production depends on the acreage finally harvested for syrup.

"Pastures are slightly above the ten year average with a condition of 84 compared with 83 during the past ten years.

Altogether the composite crop condition in Alabama, not including cotton, is about two per cent above the ten year average. The weather has been on the whole favorable for planting and cultivation and crop growth has responded accordingly. Some exceptions are apparent here and there, due to local conditions. Farmers have started the year with vigor and optimism and if influences continue favorable the final harvest will be well up to expectation."

## O'NEAL ADDRESSES FARMERS OF MACON

Value Of Organized Effort Is Pointed Out; Value Of Cooperation Revealed

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Oct. 1.—(Special)

"I firmly believe that through organization we farmers can add four to five billion dollars to our annual farm income," declared Edward A. O'Neal, president of the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation, at a county-wide meeting for farmers of Macon County ailing, using the cotton. I make as a surplus crop only. The members of my family and myself do all the farm work, working six days a week during the grass growing season, and Sundays we spend worshipping the great Giver. I have always taught my children to respect our white people who are worthy and meet all obligations promptly. Hard, faithful and honest work, attending to my own business, I feel are secrets of my success."

The meeting was called to order at 10 o'clock by T. W. Allen, county agent, who presided and introduced President O'Neal as the principal speaker. At the meeting the Macon County Farm Bureau was reorganized with D. W. Hurst, Shorter, president; Ira D. Vail, Armstrong, vice president; W. M. Zackory, Notasulga, secretary-treasurer, and Grace Bell, assistant secretary. J. A. Beaty, director of field service of the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation, was present and discussed the plan the farm bureau has formulated for giving each member a life insurance policy. Ninety per cent of those present at the meeting became members of the farm bureau after hearing the discussions by Mr. O'Neal and Mr. Beaty.

President O'Neal declared that "the old credit system of the South is the greatest curse of agriculture in the cotton producing states. The condition under which most of the cotton is sold makes the producer the least important in the marketing system."

### Credit System Scored

"This system is a curse to the land owner, tenant, merchant and banker; it is holding our whole section back. The cotton market is glutted," Mr. O'Neal declared.

Cotton marketing associations, he said, thus far have had a short lived period of experience but altogether have done an immense amount of good to the cotton marketing system in the South. Today, however, they are in a better position to serve the cotton farmers than ever before, he stated.

In this connection President O'Neal quoted Carl Williams, a cotton member of the Federal Farm Board, when he said: "The board feels that every farmer should belong to a cooperative marketing association handling his product which he raises if there is one in his neighborhood and if there is none, the farmers should help to organize one on a sound conservative basis. The board further feels that it is to the interest of farmers to belong to, work in, and use for many purposes other than cooperative marketing and the general farm organization in his territory whose leadership and purpose are for the best interests of the farmers of that territory."

Turning to the farm relief bill, President O'Neal said that "orderly marketing, surplus control and the Federal Farm Board are three things included in the declaration of policy of the recently enacted farm relief bill." For one spoke to the farmers about the farm relief bill the farm board and the farm problems now facing agriculture. He is optimistic over the future of agriculture if farmers will organize and stick to their organization.

### A SUCCESSFUL NEGRO FARMER

West Hare, a Lowndes County negro farmer who owns and operates a farm near Calhoun, is one of many negro farmers of the South who makes farming a success on the small scale. Replying to a question as to how he made farming a success? His answer was, "first, I attend to my own business and let the other fellows alone. I plant about everything that will grow on a farm that will help make it self-sustaining, using the cotton. I make as a surplus crop only. The members of my family and myself do all the farm work, working six days a week during the grass growing season, and Sundays we spend worshipping the great Giver. I have always taught my children to respect our white people who are worthy and meet all obligations promptly. Hard, faithful and honest work, attending to my own business, I feel are secrets of my success."



## Improvement of SOME RULES FOR FARMERS

Dr. Andrew M. Soule, president of the Georgia College of Agriculture, has published a set of twenty-five rules for farmers, "predicated upon fundamentally sound economic doctrines," which are well worth passing along. That Dr. Soule knows whereof he speaks when he discusses agriculture any Georgia newspaper will testify. One of them, The Macon Telegraph, says of him: "When he says this is good for the farmer, it usually proves to be good. When he says this is bad, it is usually bad."

Dr. Soule prefaces his set of rules with the statement that there is not a suggestion among them that is not "entirely practical and therefore usable." In offering these rules, he does so to insure a better home and home life for the farmer and to promote his financial emancipation, which, he says, "centers around his ability to develop his land acceptably, diversify his crops to a sufficient degree, build up and develop a modern, efficient home and home life, and so become economically independent and self-contained."

The program he suggests is as follows:

1. Set up a sound, concrete plan of continuing farm operations.
2. Inaugurate activities calculated to insure a better home and home life.
3. Make "live at home" your motto and adhere to it in the future.
4. Grow at least one major and two minor money-crops each season.
5. Intensify your production all along the line.
6. Use only high-grade fertilizers in such amounts as experience demonstrates will pay best.
7. Send your children to the best consolidated, vocational school available, thus amplifying the mind of the child and giving it an essential command over terrestrial things.
8. See that your boys and girls join and participate in the work of a 4-H club. This will add zest and variety to their work.
9. Take a good daily, church and professional paper. This represents a capital investment you cannot afford to overlook.
10. Participate in all worth while citizenship development projects in your community and county. Be a booster; not a pessimist.
11. Support your local church actively

along spiritual and fundamental lines. steady application.

12. Set up and maintain an adequate soil-building program. The soil represents your paramount capital. Conserve and increase its potentialities.

13. Cooperate in buying, transporting, selling, and marketing your surplus. Remember, that the motto of our country, "E Pluribus Unum," calls for the active cooperation of all in order that our mutual interests may always be properly safeguarded and protected against aggression.

14. Raise enough livestock of every kind to meet your needs. Have a substantial surplus of meat, milk, hay, pork, chickens and eggs for sale at the right season of the year.

15. Make "quality" production your motto. You will then always find a ready and profitable market for goods of this character.

16. Be open-minded, progressive, unprejudiced, sympathetic. These attributes point the way to progress.

17. "Strive to make the best better." Idealism is essential to success in every line.

18. Introduce the pursuit of some new and proven worth while economic practice both upon the farm and in the home each year.

19. Purchase and install some new piece of permanent equipment or labor-saving device for use upon the farm and in the farm home.

20. Save some money, even if it be only a dollar a week. Think what it will amount to in 20 weeks. Always keep in mind "the drops of water and the grains of sand."

21. Save the trees and plant five for every one you destroy. Keep fire out of the woodland.

22. Use Georgia State College of Agriculture for daily radio service as a source of dependable, up-to-the-minute information upon education, scientific research, and the general solution of the problems of the farm and farm home.

23. Remember, that economic independence constitutes the goal which the successful farmer should always be striving to attain.

24. The farm undoubtedly still affords in opportunity and a competency to every capable, industrious lover of the open country who applies himself with skill and erudition to the job.

25. The results of our Master Farmers contests demonstrate that very often men with the most limited resources at their command can accomplish success through

26. Surely, it is not inappropriate to say in the face of these facts, "Go Thou and Do Likewise."

These suggestions are offered by Dr. Soule to the farmers of Georgia, but there is not one which farmers of Alabama may not appropriate for their own application.

All that is necessary for applying them in Alabama is to change the wording of rule No. 22, which for farmers in this State should read: "Use the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn for daily radio service as a source of dependable, up-to-the-minute information upon education, scientific research, and the general solution of the problems of the farm and farm home."

## Progress Made In Electrification Of Alabama Rural Homes Past Year

### New Customers Added To Alabama Power Co. List At Rate Of 187 Per Month; Thirty Dairymen Install Complete Refrigerating Machines Operated By Electricity

AUBURN, ALA., Jan. 31—(Special)—The electrification of Alabama farms and farm homes made remarkable progress in Alabama in 1928, when new customers were added at the rate of 187 per month, the work being done by the Alabama Power Company in cooperation with the experiment station and extension service of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

An official report reveals that 867 miles of rural electric lines were in service at the end of 1928, and that they were serving 69,000 customers. At the same time 40 additional lines were under construction or had been authorized. When complete these lines will add 143.97 miles to those completed before the end of 1928; and they will serve 630 customers making a grand total of 6584.

Data on the work were compiled by E. C. Easter chief agricultural engineer of the Alabama Power Company, Birmingham. Mr. Easter has been connected with the work continuously from its beginning. His report reveals that rural transmission lines have been extended into 44 of the 67 counties.

Progress of the work in 1928 was greatly in excess of either of the four former years of rural electrification in Alabama. The average for the five years (1924 to 1928 inclusive) was 95 customers per month, this being approximately one half the number added monthly in 1928.

#### Dairy Men Effect Saving.

As an example of the economic advantages of it, Mr. Easter said that 30 dairymen installed complete refrigerating machines during 1928 and that the operation of these machines is saving these 30 dairymen approximately \$15,000

annually. This saving represents the difference between the cost of electric power plus interest and depreciation on equipment and cost of ice which was used before refrigerating machines were installed. In addition, refrigerating machines are much more convenient and more satisfactory for much drudgery was removed when these machines replaced artificial ice.

For dairymen as well as other types of farmers the goal is to make electricity profitable as well as convenient. For most farmers this goal has been attained, Mr. Easter said.

It was reported also that 650 rural customers are using electric ranges 500 are operating water pumps by electric energy and 200 of them have electric refrigerators in their homes. Numerous other electrical appliances are being used.

#### Alabama Is Leader.

In rural electrification Alabama has been a leader among the states since the beginning of the work on January 1, 1924. Prior to that an agreement was entered into by the Alabama Power Company and the Alabama experiment station to make a start in rural electrification. At that time only a few lines were planned. Each year these plans have been expanded and installations now in use exceed by far original plans.

It was provided that research work was to be done in connection with the extension of electric power to rural communities in order that farmers might know more about the farm people and also know more about how to use it to the best advantage.

This research work has been done by Prof. M. L. Nichols who has had patented a sterilizer developed a solar neat-

ing system and who with Mr. Easter and members of the animal husbandry department has developed an improved refrigerator for dairying.

Farmers having the service have found new uses for it and it is advancing along economical lines as well as in the fields of culture and service. Tenants as well as landlords have been benefitted by it.

Throughout the state farm people are eager to have hydro-electricity and the plan is to extend it to other rural communities as rapidly as it is economical and feasible to do so.

Wherever electricity has gone satisfied farmers are found. With it farm people can have the conveniences of city life plus the advantages of living in the country.

## 200 Ginners Attend Meet

## Decide On Low Production Cost For Competition

Advantage! Ginners, warehousemen, oil millers, seed buyers, farmers and a sprinkling of business men representing nearly 200 in number attended the first annual convention of the Alabama Ginners' Association held in the auditorium of the Jefferson Davis Hotel yesterday and today.

Men of prominence in these various lines came from Dothan and the Tennessee Valley, and met three scientists from Washington, D. C., who came here especially to discuss the present condition and situation of cotton ginning, cotton seed and its relation to farmers and dealers.

That Alabama farmers, faced with a high cost of growing, must adopt all measures to lower the cost of production in competition with Texas and the West, was a matter not for argument, but of common agreement in that means must be devised to give the farmer more



returns from his cotton.

This question was approached from a number of angles by the experts from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, at Washington, who have been giving special study to this question and who added the weight of research to the convention and its discussions.

#### Farmers Penalized

Dr. B. F. Youngblood, in charge of cotton marketing research showed by figures that Southern farmers were being penalized millions of dollars by growing short staple cotton, when there was a demand for longer staple. The farmer who grows cotton under seven-eighths inch staple, is simply taking dollars out of his pocketbook.

British spinners were said to have bought about 300,000 bales of cotton from Africa last year, because they could not secure enough cotton of this length from Southern farmers. Southern farmers were said to have been growing cotton of the short lengths, while we were importing long fiber cotton to fill our needs.

Dr. G. S. Meloy, of Washington, delivered an address on "Standardization of Cotton Seed and its Products." In part he said:

"What is needed, most of all, is to set up a definite standard for grading or giving value to cotton seed. We have standards in Alabama as set up by your department of agriculture, for grading fruit, vegetables, hay and cotton, and standards are needed for cotton seed.

"Until proper standards for buying or grading seed are set up, justice cannot be given to buyer, and seller or grower of cotton seed. For instance, we have found that one ton of cotton seed may contain as low as 700 pounds of kernels while another may have 1,300 pounds of kernels. Obviously these two tons of seed cannot have the same value."

#### Samples May Vary

"With regard to oil one sample may vary from another as much as 25 per cent to 42 per cent. This means that in one ton of cotton seed which contains a half ton of kernels, one ton may contain only 250 pounds of oil while the other may show 420 pounds. These samples cannot have the same value.

"Oil cake is valued chiefly in accordance with its protein. This protein content may vary from 25 per cent to 47 per cent. It is plain then that cotton seed should be given a value in proportion to its oil and protein content."

Mr. Meloy said that a plan would soon be put forth by which cotton seed could be tested and its value given definitely. He also emphasized that color of seed was no index as to its damage and that to judge it by its color and penalize it on account of color was to act with no scientific basis of fact, and it constituted a practice which was often damaging to the farmer.

The concluding speaker of the day was W. R. Lancaster, of the cotton association, in charge of selling of cotton. He advocated the raising of longer staple cotton, but that farmers should not try to raise extra long staple as this would put them in competition with foreign farmers who could live on a few cents per day.

#### Three Per Cent Gin Cut

Since three per cent of all cotton in

Alabama was gin cut and 30,000 bales were thus practically ruined in Alabama every year, he showed a terrible penalty exacted from farmers who brought wet cotton to the gin, which he said should never be ginned. Gin cut cotton was said to be penalized from \$5 to \$25 per bale, and the loss runs into millions annually in Alabama.

This loss from gin cut cotton falls on the farmer alone and there are about one per cent of the spinning mills which can handle gin cut cotton and then only at a heavy penalty. Gin cutting was said to be caused by running the gin too fast, by wet cotton or by the saws rubbing the ribs, or by dull saws.

The raising of cotton from 15-16 inch to 1 inch long was advocated by Alabama farmers. The uniform tare as enforced by the department of agriculture was discussed as well as a great many variations in the condition of cotton as it went to the market. It was emphasized that whatever the unfavorable condition, the loss always fell on the farmer and that he had to pay the penalty.

Former President E. C. Basset, and others joined in a general discussion and President Joseph N. Poole, of Butler Springs said in his address: "This association has been organized five years and I feel that we have made a great deal of progress. Our numbers have increased. We need of all classes to organize and cooperate, for we are the only class that is not organized. I think the rules and regulations of the state board of agriculture are fair and equitable, but like all necessary rules, they may work a hardship on some ginners."

#### Adjourn Today

The convention will adjourn at noon today, after which the state warehousemen's convention will gather at the auditorium of the Jefferson Davis.

President Poole announced that tomorrow forenoon J. D. Pope, farm economist of Auburn, would speak, and F. W. Gist, state and federal statistician, would be heard. These authorities have been making extended research into the cotton situation and it is known that their messages will be given to the public for the first time.

Considerable interest attaches to the closing discussion which will be regarding gin regulations. This discussion will be led by James M. Moore, chief of the markets division of the department of agriculture. Other prominent members of the ginners' association will follow and adjournment will follow at noon.

## FARMERS BANQUET MACON MERCHANTS

### Professional And Business Men Of Tuskegee And Notasulga Guests Of Growers

TUSKEGEE, ALA., April 2.—(Special)—Friday evening at the Jackson school a banquet was given by 100 members of the local Farmers' Union of the community, to their business and professional friends of Tuskegee and

Notasulga. Over 200 guests sat around the long tables comfortably arranged in the school auditorium. A delicious plate lunch was served by the ladies of the home demonstration clubs of the community.

W. C. Ledbetter, president of the local Farmers' Union called the meeting to order and turned it over to Boss Peek, chairman of the program committee. Mr. Peek introduced the Rev. Mr. Walton who gave a most cordial welcome address to the visitors. Judge D. E. Lashlie of Tuskegee responded in his pleasing manner, praising the members of the community for their thrift and energy and for the spirit of the banquet occasion.

John H. Drakeford, chairman of the Macon County Board of Revenue, was next presented and was requested to introduce the honor guest of the occasion, Judge C. E. Thomas, superintendent of the State Banking Department. Mr. Drakeford stated that Judge Thomas was reared on a cotton farm and that he had always been in close contact with farmers and farm problems and the judge always had a message of great value to farmers of our state.

In his address, Judge Thomas told of his visit to the flood sections of Elba and made an appeal to the farmers of this section to give a helping hand to their distressed brethren. He also told of the great federal reserve banking system of our state. He told the members that such organizations as the one represented at this banquet would help in a large measure to solve some of the farmer's problems. The judge complimented the farmers of Jackson community, stating that they had the best kept farms of any section in the state.

Jackson community is located in the northeastern section of Macon County and has about 200 white farmers in that section. The farms are small, but intensively cultivated. Every acre in the community has been properly terraced, drained and fenced.

The farmers use an average of 800 pounds of high grade commercial fertilizer per acre under their cotton. Every farmer raises enough feed and meat for his own use and usually has a surplus to sell. Every man, woman and child in this community belongs to some community organization such as the Farmers' Union, Farm Bureau, Home Demonstration Club and boys' and girls' clubs.

Members of the Notasulga Lions Club, Tuskegee Exchange Club, Tuskegee Junior Chamber of Commerce and leading business and professional men of Tuskegee, Notasulga and Tallassee were among those present and all expressed themselves as having had one of the most delightful evenings of their lives. The spirit of cooperation, understanding and love for each other prevailed and a greater appreciation of one another's problems was felt by the farmers and visitors who attended the banquet.

It is estimated that the farmers of Macon County will apply the normal amount of fertilizers this season. Great activity has been in progress during the past week and the farmers are beginning to plant their crops, though some will be two weeks later than usual.

## JOURNAL MONTGOMERY, ALA.

APR 29 1929

### TWO NEGRO SHIPPERS

The Prattville Progress in calling attention to the fact that in a single week there were shipped from Prattville beat a carload of poultry, two carloads of hogs and \$2,000 worth of strawberries, states that out of shipments valued at \$5,200 only two of Autauga county's 11,000 negroes furnished any poultry in the co-operative sale.

From this it draws the conclusion that these elements of the population proved themselves wholly consumers instead of producers and hopes that better record will be made in future among colored citizens in producing things which can be sold for cash.

The Progress has been carrying on a campaign to induce the growing of more cash crops in Autauga which will make it possible for the farmer to have money coming in every month instead of simply once a year when he markets his cotton. It is a worthy ambition and one which will benefit not only the county's agricultural interests but whose beneficial effects will be felt by the entire commercial and business life of the county.

Luverne, Ala., Journal  
Wednesday, June 26, 1929

## Negro Farmer Lays His Success Upon Attention To Work

FORTH DEPOSIT, ALA., June 18.

—West Hare, a Lowndes County negro farmer who owns and operates a farm near Calhoun, is one of many negro farmers of the South who makes farming a success on the small scale.

In reply to a question as to how he made farming a success, he said:

First, I attend to my own business and let the others alone. I plant about everything that will grow on a farm that will help to make it self sustaining, using the cotton I make as a surplus crop only. The members of my family and myself do all the farm work. Working six days a week during the grass growing season and Sundays we spend worshipping the Great Giver.

I have always taught my children to respect our white people who are worthy and meet all our obligations promptly. Hard, faithful and honest

work, attending to my own business, I feel are secrets of my success.

West operates a four horse farm and never fails to harvest an abundance of corn, cotton, peas, potatoes, sugarcane and all minor crops. Also he has a nice herd of cattle and hogs from which he realize a nice profit. He raises something that brings him a little money every month during the year.

## NEGRO FARMERS IMPROVE CROPS

### Exhibits At Fair Show Progress Being Made In Agriculture

That the instructions in diversification of crops which the Alabama Extension Service and such agricultural schools as Tuskegee Institute and the State A. and M. College at Huntsville have been giving the negro farmers have not gone unheeded is indicated by the variety and quality of agricultural products on exhibit in the colored departments at the State Fair.

Attractively arranged booths representing various counties of the state present a wide range of products. Fine appearing specimens of field and garden crops are towered and placed in well balanced displays. Products on exhibit include such farm crops as cotton, corn, soy sugar and sorghum cane and feeds, such garden crops as enable the farmer to live off the land, turnips, mustard, cabbage, lettuce, tomatoes, okra, onions, sweet and white potatoes and a variety of other vegetables, dairy and poultry products, fruits and nuts and home cured meats.

The agricultural exhibits have been set up by the negro farm demonstrators of the Alabama Extension Service and the agricultural department of Tuskegee Institute. They evidence the increasing interest which the negro farmer of the state is taking in the cultivation of crops which will be a source of food and money to him in the years when cotton is below par. The extension service seeks to teach the farmers how to make agriculture a profitable industry and to supply as many of his needs as possible on the farm.



# Agriculture-1929

## Improvement of

### TEACH NEGROES FARMING

Better Methods Emphasized by  
Traveling Lee County Schools.

MARIANNA, Ark., March 12.—To teach better methods of farming and home life among the negroes of Arkansas, a movable school is now a factor in the work being done under the direction of the agricultural extension division of the state. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week these extension schools are being held in Lee County.

The equipment for the school and the instructors are carried from county to county in a large truck. At the first school held at Aubrey yesterday, the school covered the vaccination of hogs, spraying, farm management, butter making, rug making, food, nutrition and home management are some of the subjects taught.

In Lee County in connection with this school talks are being given to encourage the negroes to take a part in "Better Homes Week." H. M. Jackson, mayor of Marianna; G. B. Cutting, secretary of the Marianna Chamber of Commerce; M. D. Daggett, Miss Flora Ferrill, home demonstration agent, and W. A. Owens, county agent, have been among the speakers.

The movable school is a new project in Arkansas. The only other state to have such a program for negroes is Alabama, it is said, where such a school has been functioning for 20 years. The truck will go from here to Phillips County.



R. E. Lee Wilson, owner of the town of Wilson, Ark., and head of one of the greatest cotton plantations in the world, has linked farming to industry to bring prosperity to his city of 2,000. Mr. Wilson, the community shopping center, and the high school are shown above.

WILSON, Ark., April 21.—(P)—Industrialized farming under the far-sighted genius of R. E. Lee Wilson, head of the largest individually owned cotton plantation in the world, created this unusual Arkansas town. Mr. Wilson rules the destinies of

the town bearing his name because he owns it lock, stock, and barrel. But his "subjects" say he is a "benevolent despot," and everybody appears happy.

By bending science to the development of 60,000 acres of cotton and

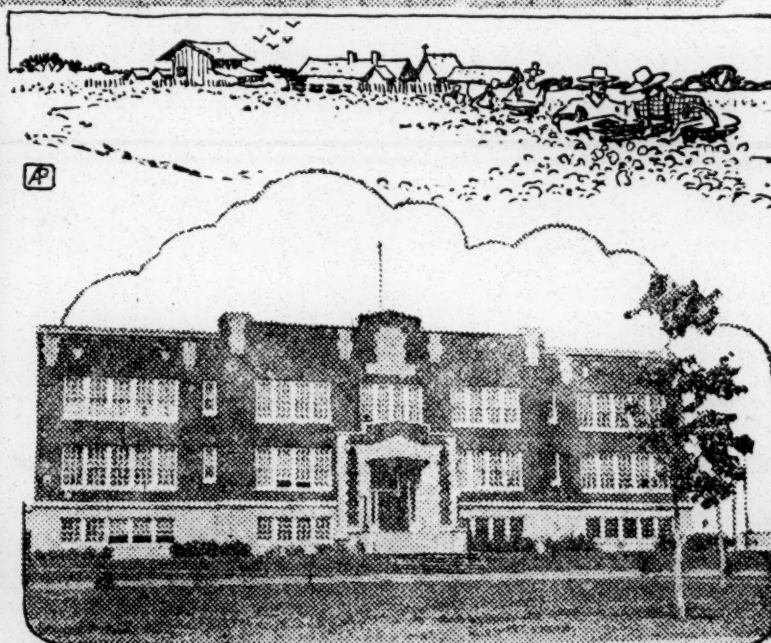
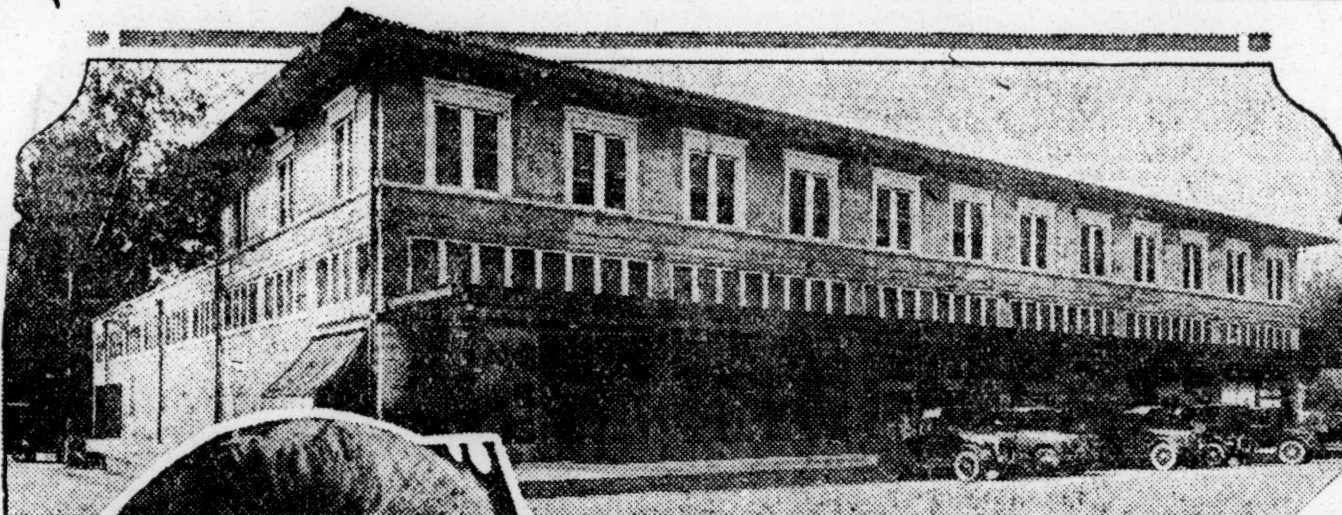
timber and in the alluvial region of eastern Arkansas, this energetic man who rose from orphan farm boy to master of millions was able to realize his dream of an ideal workaday community.

The town has a population of about 2,000, but has neither mayor nor police force. While Mr. Wilson actually owns the town, he prefers to be considered as holding it in trust for those whose work had added to its value.

The town, 42 miles from Memphis, Tenn., boasts its own utilities system, supplying every home with electric power, running water and sewage, a free mail service, fire protection and an ice plant.

Other features are a hardwood mill, a box factory, a stave factory, a flour and meal mill, cotton gins, standard schools, two churches, a

## Arkansas Planter Owns Entire Town



community center and a shopping district.

Besides the vast cotton plantation of 20,000 acres producing a bale to the acre, the Wilson holdings comprise 35,000 acres of timber land, and 5,000 acres for feed crops to care for 1,200 mules used in cotton farming.

The schools care for 400 white and negro students and have an all-year vocational program in agriculture and home economics. Deficits in the school fund are covered by a check from Mr. Wilson and his associates. Residents are assessed a small fee for medical service, and for support of churches.

Cotton seed production is one of the big enterprises in Wilson. M. W. H. Collins, in charge of plant breeding on the plantation, in 1928 supervised shipment of 1,000,000 pounds of cotton seed to Louisiana, the gift of the American Red Cross to flood sufferers.

Mr. Wilson started as a hardwood lumber operator, a field in which he has gained almost as much prominence as that of a cotton producer. His lumber plant has a capacity of 75,000 feet a day. As fast as timber is cut, the land is cleared and prepared for farming.

Chief assistant to the economic autocrat is his son, R. E. Lee Wilson, Jr., who is general manager of operations.

### Arkansas Farmers Unite

Pine Bluff, Ark. (AP)—With representatives from 51 counties present, the farmers of this State Tuesday organized the Arkansas Negro Cooperative Marketing Association, with John Gammon, Crittendon county, president.

The purpose of the organization is to promote the welfare of the farmers of the State and to place them in position to benefit from the recent federal farm relief legislation. Various farm problems were discussed and Judge Scipio A. Jones of Little Rock explained the federal farm relief plan.

Other officers of the association are: G. H. Evans, Little Rock, vice president; J. L. Phellic, Marion, secretary; and James Crawford, treasurer. The next meeting of the organization will be held in Little Rock early in September.

### TO DEMONSTRATE PICKER

Additional Feature on Wilson Barbecue Program Thursday.

As an addition to the program for R. Lee Wilson's annual barbecue at Wilson, Ark., Thursday, George Meyer, of the Meyer Manufacturing Company, Chicago, will demonstrate a cotton picker with which he has been picking two bales a day in Texas and Mississippi this season.

The demonstration will be given throughout the day in field near the Wilson cotton gin, which will be the center of activity.

Preparations are being made to feed 5,000 people with barbecued pork, beef and mutton. Crain, general manager of the Wilson plantations, will be in charge of the cooks.

Invitations have been accepted from as far as Louisiana. George Morris, editor of Commercial Appeal, will be master of ceremonies. Walter Jenkins, choir director of First Methodist Church, will take charge of the music. Henry Farris' orchestra will play for the dance in the club house at the end of the day. Tom King, formerly head of the road department, is expected to be present and former Gov. Frank O. Lowden has been invited.



Agriculture - 1929

Country Life Association.

## Improvement of Country Life Association Meets

Organization is frequently said to be the great need of agriculture and rural life, and it was chosen by the American Country Life Association as the topic for its 1929 conference. The meeting was held at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, October 17-20, and proved to be the best attended that the Association has held. Two thousand persons attended the opening session when former Governor Frank O. Lowden, president of the Association, delivered the presidential address.

*Information Service*  
Governor Lowden reported that in his travels through Africa, Asia and Europe statesmen had frequently stated that agrarian problems were of chief concern. He made a plea to farmers to realize the values of organization. If farmers have been remiss in their duty to their own industry, so has the federal government. "It has not felt the same concern for agriculture that it has for commerce and industry." 11-9-29

Among "reorganizations" needed, Governor Lowden stressed particularly tax reform and federal subsidies for rural schools. His plea for equality of opportunity in education, and national responsibility for it, was perhaps the most vigorous statement which has yet been made upon the subject, and the publicity that it received was a source of encouragement to rural educators. Governor Lowden stressed the unfavorable economic situation in agriculture and stated that "the world will have to give a better way of life" to those who supply it with food.

Dean A. R. Mann, of Cornell University, in presenting the summary of the conference discussions, said: "To a greater extent than ever before, this conference has enabled the homemaker and the farmer to join with the professional servants of country people in talking things over." Dean Mann's summary of the main conclusions of the ten sections of the conference is being published in *Rural America*, New York, for November. *New York, N.Y.*

A committee of the Association, under the chairmanship of Dr. Henry C. Taylor, presented to the Iowa State College a rustic monument as a memorial to Henry C. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, 1921-24. A service of recognition for five "master farm homemakers," held in cooperation with the *Farmer's Wife*, was one of the features of the conference. The master homemakers are selected by the journal through boards of judges in various parts of the country.

Dr. Kenyon L. Butterfield, founder of the Country Life Association, and honorary president, spoke on progress in rural organization since the report of the Roosevelt Country Life Commission in 1908 and upon international aspects of rural organization. Shortly after the conference he sailed for India on a special assignment for the International Missionary Council.

During the year 1929 the American Country Life Association has had as its executive secretary, Benson Y. Landis, who is associate secretary of the Department of Research and Education.



# Agriculture-1929 Improvement FARMERS IN FLORIDA TO GET U. S. AID

## Organizations Qualify Them for Relief

Jacksonville, Fla.—The farm relief bill recently passed by congress and signed by President Hoover may bar our farmers in the South from participating because of lack of farmers' co-operative associations in existence among these farmers. Farmers in Florida have realized more than ever before since the passage of the federal farm relief act the importance of their co-operative marketing system, originated by Gadsden county farmers in 1911 under supervision and management of A. A. Turner, state supervisor of extension work in Florida, with headquarters at the Florida A. and M. college.

It was Mr. Turner's idea of helping the farmers to solve their economic problems which started other counties to action along the same lines and resulted in a chain of ten chartered farmers' co-operative associations in this state, some with and some without capital stock. They buy farm supplies and sell farm products in car lots; operate packing houses and supervise and manage every phase of their work and business from start to finish, thus permitting the growers to control their business under their own leadership.

### STATE COVERED BY CO-OPERATIVE BODIES

The Florida state legislature of 1923 passed laws for the benefit of co-operative organizations among farmers. Our farmers availed themselves in line for such benefits that might come through state and federal legislation. The service of the Florida state marketing bureau has been made use of and this office is largely responsible for the steady progress made and that which has been accomplished has been kept within legal bounds through the guidance of the state or parent body, known as the Florida Farmers' Co-operative association, headed by H. H. Williams, potato grower of Hastings, president; A. A. Turner, Florida A. and M. college, Tallahassee, secretary; S. H. Hendley, retired farmer of Gainesville, treasurer, and Attorney I. L. Purcell, prominent lawyer of Jacksonville, legal adviser. The presidents of the local associations make up the board

of directors of the state body.

The local farmers' co-operative associations that have been organized around shipping points to date are Gainesville Farmers' Co-operative association, S. L. Long, president; Hainesworth Farmers' Co-operative association, William Anderson, president; South Side Farmers' Co-operative association, G. W. Washington, president; Reddick Farmers' Co-operative association, C. P. Brown, president; Marion Farmers' Co-operative association, W. P. Gary, president; Sumter Farmers' Co-operative association, E. J. Williams, president; Columbia Farmers' association, W. E. Bowles, president; Suwannee Farmers' association, A. L. Ivey, president, and Grove Park Farmers' association, J. T. Gaddy, president.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the state organization at Ocala June 25 resolutions were passed and adopted to have the agricultural co-operation work being done among our farmers in Florida put on record in order that the bureau of markets in Washington may know that bona fide farmers' co-operative associations exist in Florida. The resolutions further provide for a study of the co-operative marketing system as required by the federal government to be made at the national capital just as soon as the information becomes available. The roll call showed all directors present at the above meeting in person or by proxy representing ten local farmers' associations from eight counties.

## FLORIDA FARMERS ORGANIZE CREDIT CORPORATION

Ocala, Fla.—(By the Associated Negro Press)—What might be regarded as the most forward move toward farm relief for our farmers was made here when near 100 delegates, representing 20 farmers' co-operative associations from fifteen counties brought the first annual meeting of the Florida Farmers' Co-operative Association held at the A. M. E. Church to a successful close Thursday.

Unlike the customary gatherings of farmers when they usually report on "how much had been produced during the year and "whose farming record stood above the other." The program carried out

Florida.

provided only for such discussions and business transactions as would characterize the "new day" farmers meeting such as organizing rural credits, co-operative marketing and education in co-operative organization of farmers."

Representatives of local associations had direct contact with officials from the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank and State Marketing Bureau, which authorities gave first hand information along their respective lines. As the result, delegates were schooled on the essential points which the Federal Farm Board is endeavoring to get over to the American farmer as their best hope for relief.

### Credit Corporation Organized

The question of borrowing money from the government through the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of this district was explained in detail by Mr. H. L. Gardner, representing the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Columbia, S. C. His two hours' address (including questioning) led to the organization of an agricultural credit corporation which he said, "was necessary to qualify with his institution with a minimum capital stock of \$10,000, all of which must be paid in."

Immediately following his address the "Florida Farmers Credit Corporation" was organized, authorizing a capital stock of \$25,000 and a board of directors and officers for the ensuing year were appointed. The board of directors and officers for the "Florida Farmers' Co-operative Association" for the ensuing year were also appointed.

Headquarters for both institutions will be at Ocala, Fla.

### State Marketing Bureau Represented

Marketing experts from the Florida State Marketing Bureau included Mr. W. S. Hiatt on fruit and vegetable and Mr. Lewis on live stock and poultry, who spoke at length. They gave valuable information along their lines and the problem of marketing in the counties represented will be solved in many ways through the local marketing associations.

### Central Association Formed

Centralization of the local associations under one super-organiza-

tion in keeping with the request of the Federal Farm Board is regarded the most outstanding accomplishment during the meeting. Steps were taken through the executive committee to work out plans for systematic training officials of local associations in their various duties as provided for in the charter and by-laws of the marketing association.

## NEGRO FARMERS IN FLA. ORGANIZE

TAMPA, Fla.—The Negro farmers of Florida, under the leadership of A. A. Turner, director of Negro Extension Work, have organized a co-operative association through which supplies are purchased and crops marketed. An Associated Negro Press dispatch says that the association operates assembly and packing houses and sells in carload lots. Commenting upon the association, the Tampa (Fla.) Bulletin says: "So far as is known, Florida is the first state where Negro farmers have mingled their truck crops in carlots and shipped to northern and eastern markets under state laws regulating co-operative organizations."

## FLA. BOYS AND GIRLS STUDY FARMING AND HOMEMAKING

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., July 3—(ANP)—Three hundred boys and girls from the farms of Florida spent three days at the State Agricultural and Mechanical College here last week receiving intensive training in various phases of agricultural and home economics. This short course was offered by the United States Agricultural Extension Service in connection with the State College. Boys received instruction in the care of livestock, home gardening, and horticulture, dairying, control of insects. For girls instruction was offered in bread-making, home decorations, home gardening, food preservation, sewing and home crafts. An hour each day was devoted to recreation.

The short course was held preliminary to the annual 4-H Club camp which will meet at Tuskegee Institute early in December and which delegations of rural boys and girls from seven southern states will attend. Boys and girls who win the highest ratings in their respective states are selected to attend the Tuskegee camp. At the opening meeting of the course, J. R. E. Lee, president of

the State College, welcomed the visitors to the facilities of the college, urging them to get the most out of the opportunities offered. Others who spoke at the daily sessions included T. M. Campbell, associate agriculturist in charge of Extension Service in seven southern states, who explained the efforts of the government in behalf of the farm youth; A. P. Spencer, vice director of extension work in Florida; Miss Jennie P. Moore, of the state home demonstration work.

The course was under the direction of A. A. Turner, district agent in charge of agricultural extension work among men and boys, and Miss Julia A. Miller, district home demonstration agent in charge of work among women and girls.



Agriculture-1929

General.

# Improvement of CONDITIONS IN THE PIEDMONT

Recently the United States Department of Agriculture published a report of a survey in the Piedmont section of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, to determine the status of cotton farmers. It concluded that "100,000 white farmers in this area are living under very adverse conditions."

Low income was the reason assigned and low income was due to small production per man plus high cost of production. The survey revealed, for example, that only one-third of these farmers were cultivating as much as ten acres in cotton, their main cash crop. And only a third of those got an average yield of half a bale to the acre.

Several factors causing low production were found. In the first place, much of this land is not adapted to extensive agriculture because it is rolling, rough and in small fields. Still another important factor is lack of adequate power and equipment. Two-thirds of the farmers interviewed in the survey had only one mule per man. Most others used two mules per man, a few having three or four.

Lack of sufficient operating capital was another big handicap. One-fourth of the farmers had no operating capital or equipment and had to pay half of their production to landlords who furnished mules, tools, land and houses. Two-fifths had mules and tools but no land. They paid one-fourth of their production for rent.

With all these factors combined against them there is no wonder that their incomes are miserably low—the average being \$334 per family in 1924 when the survey was made.

No doubt improvement has been made, but conditions now are very similar to what they were then.

It is not probable that farming in the Piedmont section will ever be as remunerative as it is in sections where big fields of level lands permit large-scale farming. Yet vast improvements can be made in the famous old Piedmont. Livestock to keep labor busy 365 days in the year and more efficient use of the land will help. With it should be combined enough power (mules, horses, tractors) and suitable machinery for efficient use of labor. The same is true of a good many other sections.

## A CONDITION AND A REMEDY

We have before us two Associated Press dispatches originating from departments of the Federal Government, each of which is interesting itself, and which are still more interesting when taken together.

One is concerned with the adverse conditions under which hundreds of thousands of rural dwellers in the South are living. The other deals with the vast rural possibilities of the South. One gives a picture of a pathetic condition, and the other suggests a remedy for it.

A survey of conditions made by the Department of Agriculture reveals that one hundred thousand white families on cotton farms in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina are living under very adverse conditions. The survey embraced the upper Piedmont region extending through the four States. These 100,000 families, according to the department's investigators, cling to cotton production on small farms in sections over-run by the boll weevil, on irregular shaped and sloping fields and on soils that require fertilizers and constant efforts to control weeds and erosion. Many of them, the investigators say, know of ways and have the means of adding to the food on their tables and to the money in their pockets, "but ignore opportunities to do so and get along on little."

How little they manage to get along is almost incredible. A study of a typical group of these farm families in Gwinnet County, Georgia, made by the department's investigators showed that most of the men in approximately 300 families have always lived near the farms on which they were born and raised, and that they and their families exist on miserably low incomes which necessitate the poorest sort of living standards.

"Not knowing whether they might improve their condition by farming elsewhere or by going into occupations other than farming," says the department's report, "they have continued to farm in the neighborhood where they are acquainted and in the way their parents farmed, and they have adjusted their standards of living to an income, in many cases, less than that of the cheapest industrial labor."

Only a third of these farmers grow as much as ten acres of cotton, and only a third of those who grow cotton produce

as much as half a bale to the acre. Many of them are tenants on farms valued at less than \$2,000, and a fourth of the farmers have so little capital that they must contract to pay half of what they produce to landlords who furnish the mules and tools to work with, the land to farm and the houses in which they live. Two-thirds of these farmers use only one mule to the farm, and the rest use only two. They live within an average cash income of \$310 a year for the average family of five persons.

Two-fifths of the farmers have their own mules and tools but no land, and pay about a fourth of what they produce for the use of the land and the houses in which they live. In this group the average cash income available for family living is \$336 a year. "Most of these farmers," says the report, "have passed through periods when they farmed on halves because they were too poor to own a mule and tools."

A fifth of all the families surveyed live in two or three rooms. "Only a few houses had cellars, and in many cases only one thickness of board protected the occupants of the houses," the report continues. "Most of the families use kerosene lamps. Practically all families had sewing machines, for they must make their own clothes, organs, phonographs, pianos, banjos, violins and guitars were fairly plentiful." To complete the picture of the living conditions under which these families exist, the report sets forth that their reading is confined largely to county papers or priced home or farm papers, and that "some of the farmers had automobiles but little money for running them."

The other dispatch gives an account of investigations made by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation in the South. These investigations show that this section of the country has "all the conditions for an attractive and prosperous rural life."

Commissioner Mead, of the Reclamation Service, in his annual report lists the favorable material conditions in the South as long growing seasons, adequate rainfall, that which is adequately fertilized from erosion can be easily controlled, and in addition fine transportation facilities and nearness to the largest cities of the country.

Why, in a region offering such wonderful possibilities for attractive and prosperous rural living, do we have so many thou-

Advertina

Advertiser

11/29/29

Montgomery

Ula



Agriculture - 1929  
Improvement of  
**RACE FARMERS  
GAIN LITTLE BY  
NEW FARM BILL**

**Lack of Cooperative Organi-  
zations Among Small Till-  
ers, Is Cause.**

**MANY DISCOURAGED  
Migration to Cities Will Re-  
sult; Act of 1916 Cited.**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—  
Lack of agricultural co-  
operative organizations  
will shut out Negro farm-  
ers from any except gen-  
eral benefits from the farm  
relief legislation of this  
Congress.

The farm relief bill was signed by  
President Hoover last Saturday. At  
the same time the President an-  
nounced that he is asking Congress  
for an initial appropriation of \$150,-  
000,000 of the \$500,000,000 revolving  
fund authorized by the measure.

The selection of the members of  
the federal farm board, set up by  
the terms of the bill to administer  
the revolving fund to be used in loans  
to agricultural cooperatives and stab-  
ilization corporations for various  
commodities, the President said, will  
require two or three weeks.

**Vacancy**  
While there was some agitation for  
the appointment of a colored man  
to a vacancy on the Federal Farm  
Loan Board, no cognizance was taken  
of it by the President. It is expected  
that the appointment of a colored  
man to membership on the newly  
created Federal Farm Board will be  
proposed but with no degree of sin-  
cerity.

**Nine Members**  
In choosing the nine persons who  
are to constitute the Federal Farm  
Board, it is not believed that Presi-  
dent Hoover will give consideration  
to any colored man who may be pro-  
posed for membership. He plans to  
distribute the membership regionally  
over the country and to select men  
of actual farm experience who have  
been actually engaged in directing

farmers marketing organizations.  
The bill as signed by the President  
provides for the creation of a Fed-  
eral Farm Board of nine members  
including the Secretary of Agriculture  
as a member ex-officio, with one of  
the members to be designated as  
chairman by the President. The  
eight appointed members of the  
board will serve for six years at sal-  
aries of \$12,000 a year. The board  
is authorized to make loans for agri-  
cultural co-operative organizations  
and commodity stabilization corpora-  
tions out of a revolving fund of  
\$500,000,000.

**Corporations**  
The stabilization corporations are  
to be empowered to acquire and store  
surplus agricultural commodities in  
order to bring about orderly market-  
ing conditions and to act as selling  
agents for the cooperatives.

As far as could be ascertained there  
are no Negro agricultural co-opera-  
tive organizations or commodity stab-  
ilization corporations.

**925,708 Farmers**  
The census of 1920 showed 925,-  
708 Negro farmers operating 41,432,-  
182 acres of land. There were among  
them 218,612 owners whose farm prop-  
erty was valued at \$554,158,003. A-  
mong white farmers 67 per cent were  
owners. Among Negro farmers 24  
per cent were owners.

Because of the lack of federal farm  
loan associations, Negro farmers were  
not able to get the benefits of the  
Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916.  
They have become discouraged, ac-  
cording to reports reaching govern-  
ment departments here.

**Migration**  
Charles E. Hall, an expert in the  
Census Bureau whose duty it is to  
check up Negro migration, summarizes  
the situation as follows: "It is gen-  
erally believed that unless a more  
liberal policy is inaugurated, we shall  
witness a greater migration of Ne-  
groes from the rural districts to the  
highly organized industrial centers  
of the Nation. This will mean more  
and larger ghettos, possibly an in-  
crease in crime, and certainly an in-  
creased mortality rate."

## FEDERAL FARM EXPERTS MEET TO START WORK

**Night Sessions Loom As  
Body Begins Effort  
To Aid Planters**

WASHINGTON, July 15—(AP)—The  
Federal Farm Board created by Con-  
gress, after years of dispute, assem-  
bled Monday and was charged by  
President Hoover with responsibility  
for a solution of America's long  
standing and vexatious agricultural  
problem.

At the end of the first day's con-  
ferences, begun at a meeting with  
Mr. Hoover in the cabinet room of  
the White House, the chairman of  
the board, Alexander H. Legge — a

Chicago business man—announced  
that "we are going to work long and  
hard." Saying there were no prom-  
ises, he expressed hope that the board  
could organize agriculture to permit  
application of its work to this year's  
crops.

Most of the day was occupied with  
routine business. Chris L. Christen-  
sen, chief of the cooperative market-  
ing division of the Department of  
Agriculture, was selected as secretary  
to the board.

The program of "long and hard"  
work mentioned by Legge was in-  
itiated by employment of office per-  
sonnel. The chairman said the board  
would meet Tuesday and indicated  
night sessions were in order. Little  
hope for important news announce-  
ments was held out, however. The  
board members were invited to din-  
ner Monday night at the White  
House.

**Many Problems**  
In his prepared statement to the  
board, the president defined its fun-  
damental purpose as "to determine  
the fact and to find solution to a  
multitude of agricultural problems."

He cited these problems: "To more  
nearly adjust production to create  
permanent business institutions for  
marketing which, owned and con-  
trolled by the farmers, shall be so  
wisely devised and soundly founded  
and well managed that they, by ef-  
fecting economies and giving such  
stability, will grow in strength over  
the years to come."

"Through these efforts," Mr. Hoo-  
ver added, "we may establish to the  
farmer an equal opportunity in our  
economic system with other indus-  
try."

The president said the board mem-  
bers represented the expressed voices  
of the many farmers' cooperative or-  
ganizations. He invested them "with  
responsibility, authority and re-  
sources such as have never before  
been conferred by our government in  
assistance to any industry."

## MAINTAIN NO ORGANIZATIONS FOR MARKETING

**No Negro Will Likely Be Ap-  
pointed to Board. May  
Increase Migration**

Lack of agricultural cooperative  
organizations will shut out Negro  
farmers from any except general  
benefits from the farm relief legis-  
lation of this Congress.

While there was some agitation  
for the appointment of a colored  
man to a vacancy on the Federal  
Farm Loan Board, no cognizance  
was taken of it by the President.  
It is expected that the appointment  
of a colored man to membership  
on the newly created Federal Farm  
Board will be proposed but with

no degree of sincerity.

The eight appointed members of  
the board will serve for six years  
at salaries of \$12,000 a year. The  
board is authorized to make loans  
for agricultural cooperative organi-  
zations and commodity stabilization  
corporations out of a revolving  
fund of \$500,000,000.

The stabilization corporations  
are to be empowered to acquire  
and store surplus agricultural com-  
modities in order to bring about  
orderly marketing conditions and  
to act as selling agents for the  
cooperatives.

As far as could be ascertained  
there are no Negro agricultural  
cooperative organizations or com-  
modity stabilization corporations,  
and those operated by the whites,  
exclude Negroes as members.

The census of 1920 showed 925,-  
708 Negro farmers operating 41,-  
432,182 acres of land. There were  
among them 218,612 owners whose  
farm property was valued at \$554,-  
158,003. Among white farmers 67  
per cent were owners. Among  
Negro farmers 24 per cent were  
owners.

Because of the lack of federal  
farm loan associations, Negro farm-  
ers were not able to get the  
benefits of the Federal Farm Loan  
Act of 1916. They have become  
discouraged, according to reports  
reaching government departments  
here.

Charles E. Hall, an expert in the  
Census Bureau whose duty it is  
to check Negro migration, sum-  
marizes the situation as follows:  
"It is generally believed that un-  
less a more liberal policy is inaugu-  
rated, we shall witness a greater  
migration of Negroes from the ru-  
ral districts to the highly organized  
industrial centers of the Nation.  
This will mean more and larger  
ghettos, possibly an increase in  
crime, and certainly an increased  
mortality rate."

**ONE WAY TO FOOL INSECTS**—Diversification of crops as a  
method of getting rid of noxious insects was advocated in a  
recent address at Cold Spring Harbor by Prof. Charles T. Brues  
of Harvard. His plan, says Dr. E. E. Free, in *New York*, "de-  
serves consideration from every one interested in the future of  
agriculture, which ought to mean every citizen of the United  
States." We read in that paper:

"It may be, he said, that the present trend toward larger  
farms, mechanical operation, big business combinations in  
farming, and the like is not merely wrong but impossible. What  
threatens it, he suspects, is not law, but bugs. It runs counter,  
perhaps, to what the world's insects will force us to do, if not to  
what they want us to do. Large fields devoted to the same crop,  
whole States or counties employing the same fundamental kind  
of agriculture, are excellent business units. Machinery may  
have its most efficient use. Skilful superintendence may be  
spread thinner without loss or danger; something always desir-  
able in any modern industry where really able men, as usual,  
are scarce.

"Beginning in California with fruit and vegetable farming,  
in the Middle West with cattle and corn, and in the South  
with cotton, this large-unit organization of agriculture has

proved economically efficient, and has been felt by most experts  
to be inevitable. The new difficulty which Professor Brues  
points out is that this is also the kind of agriculture most sat-  
isfactory to the bugs. Many insects, if not most of them, are  
particular about what they eat. Their especial food or home  
or breeding-place is some one variety of plant. When only one  
plant is grown in a whole State that plant's insect enemies wax  
numerous and spread everywhere. Old-fashioned diversified  
agriculture stops such spreads, for cotton insects come soon to  
a field of corn and corn insects to one of cotton. Diversification  
provides fences which insects can not cross, or cross but slowly  
and imperfectly."



**Lack of Cooperative Organizations Among Small Tillers, Is Cause.**

Migration to Cities Will Result; Act of 1916 Cited.

The farm relief bill was ~~significantly~~ *discussed* by President Hoover last Saturday. At the same time the President announced that ~~he~~ *he* is asking Congress for ~~a~~ *a* initial appropriation of \$150,000,000 of the \$500,000,000 revolving fund authorized ~~for~~ *for* the measure.

The selection of the members of the federal farm board, set 29 by the terms of the bill to amend the revolving fund to be used in loans to agricultural cooperatives and stabilization corporations for various commodities, the President said, will require two or three weeks.

Vacancy

While there was some agitation for the appointment of a colored man to a vacancy on the Federal Farm Loan Board, no cognizance was taken of it by the President. It is expected that the appointment of a colored man to membership on the newly created Federal Farm Board will be proposed but with no degree of sincerity.

Nine Members

In choosing the nine persons who are to constitute the Federal Farm Board, it is not believed that President Hoover will give consideration to any colored man who may be proposed for membership. He plans to distribute the membership regionally over the country and to select men of actual farm experience who have been actually engaged in directing

farmers marketing organizations. The bill as signed by the President provides for the creation of a Federal Farm Board of nine members including the Secretary of Agriculture as a member ex-officio, with one of the members to be designated as the chairman by the President. The eight appointed members of the board will serve for six years at salaries of \$12,000 a year. The board is authorized to make loans for agricultural co-operative organizations and commodity stabilization corporations out of a revolving fund of \$500,000,000.

The stabilization corporations are to be empowered to acquire and store surplus agricultural commodities in order to bring about orderly marketing conditions and to act as selling agents for the cooperatives.

As far as could be ascertained there are no Negro agricultural co-operative organizations or commodity stabilization corporations.

The census of 1920 showed 923,708 Negro farmers operating 41,432,182 acres of land. There were among them 218,612 owners whose farm property was valued at \$594,158,003. A third while farmers 67 per cent were owners. Among Negro farmers 34 per cent were owners.

Because of the lack of federal farm loan associations, Negro farmers were not able to get the benefits of the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916. They have become discouraged, according to reports reaching Government departments here.

Charles E. F. J., an expert in the Census Bureau whose duty it is to check up Negro migration, summarizes the situation as follows: "It is generally believed that unless a more liberal policy is inaugurated, we shall witness a greater migration of Negroes from the rural districts to the highly organized industrial centers of the Nation. This will mean more drastic, larger rhetootes, possibly an increase in crime, and certainly an increased mortality rate."

**EXPERTS MEET  
TO START WORK**  
**Night Sessions Loom As  
Body Begins Effort**

## To Aid Planters

James

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The Board created by Congress to study the Federal Farm Budget of dispute, assembled here today after years of dispute, assembled Monday and was charged by President Hoover with responsibility for a solution of America's long standing and vexatious agricultural problem.

At the end of the first day's conferences, began a meeting with Mr. Hoover in the cabinet room of the White House, the chairman of the board, Alexander H. Leese — a

Chicago business man—announced that "we are going to work long and hard." Saying there were no promises, he expressed hope that the board could organize agriculture to permit application of its work to this year's crops.

Most of the day Chris L. Christensen, chief of the cooperative marketing division of the Department of Agriculture, was selected as secretary to the board.

The program by Legge was in work mentioned of office personnel. The chairman said the board would meet Tuesday and indicate night sessions were in order. Little hope for important news announcements was held out, however. The board members were invited to dinner Monday night at the Whittier House.

In his prepared statement to the board, the president defined its fundamental purpose as "to determine the fact and to find solution to a multitude of agricultural problems." He cited these problems: "To more nearly adjust production to create permanent business institutions for marketing which, owned and controlled by the farmers, shall be so wisely devised and soundly founded and well managed that they, by effecting economies and giving such a steady, will grow in strength over the years to come."

"Through these efforts," Mr. Hoover added, "we may establish in our country an equal opportunity in our system with other industries."

The president said the board members represented the expressed voice of the many farmers' cooperative organizations. He invested them "with all the responsibility, authority and honor the sources such as have never before been conferred by our government assistance to any industry."

**MAINTAIN NO  
ORGANIZATIONS  
FOR MARKETIN**

## No Negro Will Likely Be A pointed to Board. May Increase Migration

Lack of agricultural cooperative organizations will shut out Negro farmers from any except general benefits from the farm relief legislation of this Congress.

While there was some separation between the two groups, the colorless man was soon appointed to the vacancy on the Federal Farm Loan Board, and recognized as expected that the appointment of a colored man to membership on the newly created Federal Farm Loan Board will be proposed by the

no degree of sincerity. The eight appointed members of the board will serve for six years at salaries of \$12,000 a year. The board is authorized to make loans for agricultural cooperative organizations and commodity stabilization corporations out of a revolving fund of \$500,000,000.

The stabilization corporations are to be empowered to acquire and store surplus agricultural commodities in order to bring about orderly marketing conditions and to act as selling agents for the cooperatives.

As far as could be ascertained, there are no Negro agricultural cooperative organizations or commodity stabilization corporations and those operated by the whites include Negroes as members.

The census of 1920 showed 325,708 Negro farmers operating 41,432,182 acres of land. There were among them 218,612 owners whose farm property was valued at \$554,158,008. Among white farmers 67 per cent were owners. Among Negro farmers 24 per cent were

Because of the lack of federal farm loan associations, Negro farmers were not able to get the benefits of the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916. They have become discouraged, according to report reaching government department here.

Charles E. Hall, an expert in the Census Bureau whose duty it is to check Negro migration, summarizes the situation as follows: "It is generally believed that unless a more liberal policy is inaugurated we shall witness a greater migration of Negroes from the rural districts to the highly organized industrial centers of the nation. This will mean wor and larger ghettos, possibly an increase in crime, and certainly an increased mortality rate.

ONE WAY TO FOOL KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE is the method of getting rid of notions instead of facts. This is the recent address at Cold Spring Harbor of Harvard. His plan, says Dr. E. B. Williams, is to give serious consideration from every one to the question of agriculture, which ought to mean "the science of the States." We read in that paper:

"It may be, he said, that the pr  
farms, mechanical operation, big  
farming, and the like is not merely w  
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diversification of crops as a means of insect control was advocated in a paper by Prof. Charles T. Brues, published in *Free, in New York*, "devoted to the future of agriculture." Every citizen of the United States is interested in the subject, and has been felt by most experts to be inevitable. The new difficulty which Professor Brues points out is that this is also the kind of agriculture most satisfactory to the bugs. Many insects, if not most of them, are particular about what they eat. Their especial food or home or breeding-place is some one variety of plant. When only one plant is grown in a whole State that plant's insect enemies wax numerous and spread everywhere. Old-fashioned diversified agriculture stops such spreads, for cotton insects come soon to a field of corn and corn insects to one of cotton. Diversification provides fences which insects can not cross, or cross but slowly and imperfectly."



Agriculture-1929

## Improvement of Leaving the Farm

**I**N THESE years of the McNary-Haugen Bill we hear much of the sad condition of the farmer caught between the high domestic market where he must buy and the low world market where he must sell. There also suffers along with him the less considered "hired man."

Agriculture, which in America had always before occupied more persons than any other occupation, dropped to second place in the 1920 census, giving way to manufacturing and mechanical industries. In the last hundred years the percentage of the population over ten years of age engaged in agriculture has steadily declined, though the absolute number has increased. But from 1910 to 1920 even the absolute number decreased. Exactly what this decrease was it is difficult to tell. The census figures make it about 1,700,000 persons, but the census itself says that part of this was due to over-enumeration in 1910 and underenumeration in 1920. P. K. Whelpton of the Scripps Foundation has estimated the correct figure as around 800,000. Moreover, recent data indicate that there was as great a decrease from 1920 to 1925 as during the ten years preceding.

Who are these people—at least a million and a half of them—who have left the farms during the last fifteen years or so? The number of farmers, that is, those who manage their own land or rented property, has increased a couple of hundred thousand in the last census decade. The decrease in the total is among those who work on the farms without having a proprietary interest in them: the hired men and the children of the farmers, between whom the group of farm laborers is divided about equally. It is impossible to tell how many of those who have left the farm were hired men and how many farmers' sons who went to seek their fortunes in the big cities. Probably they have gone from both groups. The interesting thing is to find out why.

The answer is the status of the two million "hired men" whom the 1920 census found still on the farms. In ability and training they are comparable with unskilled or semi-skilled industrial workers. What is their economic status in comparison? The Department of Agriculture has compiled wage figures for farm workers from 1910 to 1927. Their wages have, of course, increased in this period, but how much has been clear gain? The

National Bureau of Economic Research estimates the value of the dollar to the farm laborer as distinct from other working men, though the difference is slight. According to them the 1913 dollar was worth fifty-one cents to him in 1920 and sixty-four cents in 1921. So in terms of 1913 when his average weekly wage was \$8.88, his real wage rose to \$10.29 in 1920 and dropped to \$8.33 in 1921.

How has his wage increased compared with that of other unskilled male workers? From 1914 to 1924 it rose 70 percent. Figures compiled by the National Industrial Conference Board show that all but two manufacturing industries (hosiery and knit goods, and paint and varnish) increased more than this, and many a great deal more, even 150 percent. That is, manufacturing has been becoming more attractive economically to the unskilled worker, while agriculture offers about what it did before the War.

Let us compare the farm worker's absolute wage with that of the unskilled laborer in manufacturing. Government figures on the latter are available for 1924, 1925, or 1926. The figures for these years for agricultural laborers (where board is not furnished) are \$14.64, \$14.76, and \$14.94 respectively. That is more than \$2 less than for the lowest paid of other laborers, railroad track workers, and \$14 less than motor vehicle manufacturing, which is the best paid exclusive of mining.

So the unattached young men are leaving the farms, where they suffer from the effects of agricultural depression without the farmer's advantage of independence. The farmer himself tends to remain, because farm property isn't selling very well, so it means a sacrifice to sell or rent it. And to add to his troubles he finds he can't get the kind of hired men he used to. Only those too old, or too dull, or too unambitious to break into industry, are left. And he can't afford to pay enough to get better help. We are told that the farmer is so badly off because he is inefficient. One reason for that is the type of labor he can command. So the old merry-go-round is on! Low profits mean low wages mean low profits!

MARTORIE MCFARLAND.

General.

## FARM BOARD TO WORK ON OPERATING PLAN

Experts To Spend Indefinite  
Period Perfecting Own  
Machinery.

Washington, August 15.—(AP)—Closing the first month of its existence, during which progress has been made toward the development of important policies, the federal farm board announced today that henceforth for an undetermined period it intends to devote itself exclusively to the perfection of its own operating machinery.

To this end the board will decline to grant hearings to applicants for loans unless emergency in character, and all delegations have been asked not to come to Washington except by previously arranged appointments.

Since the day of its organization, the board has held almost continuous sessions with co-operative officials representing the various crops. Many of these meetings were devoted to consideration of loans but the board has been unable to do much in this connection because its research and financial divisions have not been created.

In announcing the period during which no hearings will be held, the board said it must organize itself so it will be able to respond "actively to requests for loans or for other assistance."

"The board is attempting to organize a staff," the board's statement added, "whose purpose will be to furnish facts concerning the co-operative movement and its needs in respect to every commodity in every locality."

"The board is attempting to create a loan division of financial experts and appraisers who shall be able to pass intelligently upon requests for financial assistance. The board is attempting to set up a legal division which can under the law protect the funds that have been furnished to it by the taxpayers of the United States."

"All of these operating divisions are completely necessary in order that the board may efficiently serve American agriculture. To develop them and at the same time develop uniform policies of operation will demand the full efforts of the board for some time to come."

So far the board has made only one loan, an advance of \$300,000 to two Florida co-operatives to aid in meeting government regulations imposed by the prevalence of the Mediterranean fruit fly. There had been some question as to whether the board had authority to make loans until its members were confirmed by the senate but Comptroller General McCarl ruled today that it was legal to do so.

## COTTON GROWERS ASK FIVE MILLION LOAN

Tell Farm Board Money Is  
Needed for Orderly  
Marketing.

Washington, August 13.—(AP)—The need for a loan of \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 to aid in the orderly disposition of this year's cotton crop was presented to the federal farm board today by a group of trustees of the American Cotton Growers' Exchange.

The money was necessary, the board was informed, to supplement loans obtainable through the intermediate credit system and local banks to pay off cotton growers who desired to exercise their option of collecting from the co-operatives with which they had deposited their crop.

Information available at the board's offices indicated that the cotton men's representatives had been received favorably, but that the board stipulated a number of conditions which would first have to be fulfilled. The exact nature of these conditions was not disclosed.

The group which conferred with the board included C. O. Moser, of Dallas, president of the American Cotton Growers' Exchange; A. D. Waldauer, of Memphis; Sam Morley, of Oklahoma; Charles G. Henry, of Arkansas, and U. B. Blalock, all identified with the co-operative cotton marketing movement.

This group also came to Washington with plans for the formation of a commodity advisory council for cotton, but these plans have not taken sufficient shape to warrant the board acting upon them at this time. It was regarded as likely, however, that, if any extensive loan is extended, the board would consider the appointment of an advisory council desirable.

Board officials previously had secured information which they said showed the co-operative marketing movement had progressed exceptionally well among the cotton growers. The American Cotton Growers' Exchange is a national federation of thirteen co-operatives.

Three important co-operatives do not belong to the exchange. They are the Staple Cotton Co-operative Association of Greenwood, Miss.; the Arkansas Farmers' Union Cotton Growers' Association of Little Rock, Ark., and the Pecos Valley Cotton Growers' Association of Roswell, N. M. If a commodity council were appointed it was considered certain that all these groups would be accorded a representative.

President Moser said that the cotton co-operatives desired to use local banking facilities wherever possible to finance the growers' optional demands, but that in some cases interest rates were becoming prohibitive. For this reason, he said, a sizeable loan from the farm board would be of great aid at this time.



## NOTHING FOR INDIVIDUALS

AT ITS fourth session the newly-created Federal Farm Board decided that loans under the act were authorized only to regularly organized cooperative associations and not to individuals. Mr. Alexander Legge, president of the board, stated that thousands of applications for loans had been received from individual farmers whom he wished informed that they could as individuals expect nothing.

As The Pittsburgh Courier has said time after time, we are living in an organized world in which the individual counts for little. In order to get anything nowadays it is absolutely necessary to be organized, and militantly organized at that. Negro farmers like Negro laborers have been content to remain individuals on the economic field and they will, of course, have to suffer the consequences. Because he has remained ignorant or indifferent to the necessity for joining farm cooperatives, the Negro farmer, who needs far more relief than the white farmer, will get nothing.

Of course, the Negro is organized, but the sort of organization in which he is largely engaged has little or no economic value. He has church and fraternal organizations in great number, greater, perhaps, than is necessary, but he has no economic organizations created for the purpose of protecting his agricultural and industrial interests. Even where white economic organizations are available and would welcome his membership, he has hesitated to join them.

We would like to see Negro farmers get some of the money that is going to be dispensed for the relief of those engaged in agriculture. We can, however, see no way for the Negro farmer to get any of it so long as he persists in functioning as an individual. Nor do we believe the Negro farmers entirely to blame. They have received little or no instruction and advice from the numerous Negro farm agents and officials of Negro agricultural institutes that dot the South.

There is still time, however, for something to be done. The Negro farmers if they are shown the way, will take as willingly to economic cooperation as the white farmers. They only need to be shown. We hope those Negroes who are supposed to be familiar with such matters will jump in and do a little agitation and organizational work before all of the farm relief money is appropriated.

### An Open Letter to the President on the Appointment of a Colored Man on the Farm Board.

Honorable Herbert Hoover,  
President of the United States,  
Mr. President.

I am taking the liberty of addressing you with reference to the appointment of a colored representative on the Farm Board recently authorized by an act of Congress. It is generally believed that the proper functioning of the board will have far-reaching influence upon the agricultural and economic destiny of America. The issue between the agricultural and industrial elements has reached the state of acute antagonism whose efficient treatment calls imperatively for wise constructive statesmanship. The country congratulates you upon your courage and firmness in handling this issue which confirms our belief in you as master administrator and executive.

### Rooted in the Soil.

The Negro's destiny in this country, as was his beginning, is rooted and grounded in the soil. This is the one basic industry in which he is an essential factor. The farm offers him by far the best chance amidst the fierce industrial rivalry, in which the weaker factor will inevitably be forced to the wall. The color bar is a bar sinister to the Negro as concerns city industries based upon machinery and organization. The uncontrollable law of race prejudice will permit him neither to compete nor to combine with the dominant white labor forces. But in agriculture he is largely sheltered from this inexorable law of Aryan competition. The Negro should, therefore, be encouraged to seek for his salvation as a mass, in the unopposed sphere of producing food and fiber to nourish and clothe the nation. He is forced to work at a disadvantage in all spheres of activity in which he may be engaged, but on the farm this relative disadvantage is reduced to a minimum. Mother earth responds with equal readiness to tickling by the black or white tiller. Markets are color blind as to the complexion of the producer.

The Negro should take over the farm as often as the white man abandons it. Very unfortunately, the Negro is blindly imitating the white man in this mad cityward rush. They are alike attracted by the glare of city allurements; but the black arriver finds himself the more hopelessly deluded by the enchantment.

### Mechanical Industries.

The World War prolonged, for a while, the deluded hope of the Negro in competitive mechanical industries. A vacuum was created in the labor market and the Negro rushed in to fill the temporary demand. The increasing restrictions of immigration will serve to suspend his dream a little longer. But as conditions settle down to their normal state and the white labor fund becomes adequate to the demand, the black competitor will be pushed further and further down on the scale of desirable and remunerative employment.

There is an essential difference in the raison d'être of the two races as concerns this blind cityward movement. Manufacture, trade and transportation are under the control of the monopoly of white labor. The Negro, so far, has shown little developed aptitude for business and commerce. The rapid rise of the merger and the syndicate business which frustrates the successful operation of all small concerns, adds gloom to the Negro's hope to develop independent enterprise.

### Decline.

The saddest chapter in the history of Negro progress is disclosed by the last census which reveals the decline of farm ownership and operation. The seeming increase in city holdings is a poor offset for this vital loss. The city Negro's possession consists all but wholly in home ownership which is a dead asset without productive value. On the other hand a farm represents productive capital or a working tool whereby the owner is enabled to make a living for himself and family. The farm owner is his own proprietor and directs his own activities, whereas the urban Negro is merely a hired hand, confined mainly to manual and menial forms of labor.

If the Negro is to become habituated to self-proprietaryship and the system and method of conducting business, he will be more likely to acquire both the knowledge and the knack by the orderly conduct of farming activities which are more and more requiring like skill enterprise and initiative than through the scant opportunity which an over-shadowing city environment affords him.

### Greatest Usefulness.

I gather from various angles that your administration purposes to lay comparatively little stress on the race problem from the purely political point of view, but rather hopes to serve the Negro comprehensively by encouraging improvement in his industrial, economic and moral lot. Here, it seems, you have a strategic opportunity. The selection of a competent colored man to serve on the Farm Board would go further to stimulate the mind of the race in the direction of its greatest usefulness to itself and to the nation than the appointment

of a dozen candidates as register of something, recorder of something else, assistant to somebody or minister to somewhere.

### Crime Commission.

I greatly hoped that you might have seen your way clear to select a colored man for a place on your Crime Commission, mainly for the beneficial reaction of such a choice upon the group which is at once the greatest victim of lawlessness and the chief beneficiary of law enforcement.

The Negro should be led to appreciate the beneficent purpose and intent of good government by entrusting him with some responsible relation to the machinery of government. The white race will prove to be a very poor schoolmaster to the Negro if it insists on laying down rigid regulations and beating the black man into obedience, without appealing to his conscience and intelligence.

The same principle applies to agricultural industry. Hampton and Tuskegee have been trying for a generation to inculcate upon the understanding of the Negro that his best chance and only salvation lay in the farm. The powerful pull of city allurements, has for the past two decades, greatly weakened the strength of their appeal. The government can do much to direct the race in the wise way in which it should go.

In this connection I beg to suggest for consideration, Dr. R. R. Moten, principal of Tuskegee Institute, whose race philosophy is based upon the agriculture motive, and Mr. E. P. Booze, of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, who is conducting an agricultural and business experiment, whose outcome is fraught with vital significance to the Negro and to the nation.

Yours truly,

KELLY MILLER.

### SOUTHERN MEN INDORSE SIMMONS' COMMUNITY BILL

Washington, May 15.—(P)—Two witnesses today indorsed the Simmons' bill to authorize an appropriation of \$12,000,000 to be used for the creation of planned rural communities in the south.

Appearing before the senate irrigation and reclamation committee, which has the bill introduced by Senator Simmons, under consideration, Hugh MacRae, developer of the Castle Haynes Agricultural colony near Wilmington, N. C., declared that the plan he put into effect at the colony was working successfully.

J. N. Moten, a black cotton grower, told conditions in the industry and alleged that action was necessary in order to restore rich, alluvial lands along the coast which have been turned over to tenants who have produced only cotton and tobacco for years.

"Otherwise," he said, "the land will drift into decay." Tomorrow the committee will take final action on the bill, today's witnesses having concluded the hearings. Simmons said he expected no serious opposition to a favorable report to the senate.

### FIFTY MILLIONS FOR FRUIT-SELLING

THE NEW \$50,000,000 FRUIT and vegetable cooperative marketing association a "food trust"? This is the question raised in the minds of the ultimate consumer, declares the Brooklyn Eagle, by the recent incorporation of some sixty fruit and vegetable cooperatives in twenty-five States and as the United Growers of America. The organizers of this third step in the farm-relief program was the Jardine, Secretary of Agriculture under President Coolidge, and a member of the Board of United Growers, efforts will be made for a more even distribution of fruit and vegetables over the country "to prevent a shortage in one section while an surplus in another."

Fruit and vegetables, says the Washington Star, are second in value only to the corn crop. According to William M. Jardine, Secretary of Agriculture under President Coolidge, and a member of the Board of United Growers, efforts will be made for a more even distribution of fruit and vegetables over the country "to prevent a shortage in one section while an surplus in another."

Through the United Growers, which is farmer-owned and controlled, farmers will retain possession of their produce from point of production to retailer. Handling a large volume, it will give them increased bargaining power, facilitate orderly marketing, reduce wasteful duplication, and insure a reliable supply of ripe fruits and vegetables, returning to the farmer a larger percentage of the price paid by the consumer without increasing the price to the consumer.

The new organization proposes to pay not more than 8 per cent. to its preferred stockholders, and to distribute surplus among its cooperative units.



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of a dozen candidates as register of something, recorder of something else, assistant to somebody or minister to somewhere.

The World War prolonged, for a while, the deluded hope of the Negro in competitive mechanical industries. A vacuum was created in the labor market and the Negro rushed in to fill the temporary demand. The increasing restrictions of immigration will serve to suspend his downward little longer. But as conditions settle down to their normal statistics and the white labor fund becomes adequate to the demand, the black competitor will be pushed further down and further down on the scale of desirable and remunerative employment.

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The city near Los Angeles consists all but wholly in home ownership. On the other hand, the productive value of the farm represents a working tool whereby the owner is enabled to make a living for himself and family. The farm owner is his own proprietor and directs his own activities, whereas the urban

If the Negro is to become habituated to self-proprietorship and the method of conducting business

**Greatest Usefulness.** I gather from various angles that your administration purposes to be comparatively little stress on the rural side. I am not, however, in a position to say whether this is a wise or a foolish policy. I am, however, in a position to say that the rural side is a very important one, and that it is one which should be given the highest priority. I am, however, in a position to say that the rural side is a very important one, and that it is one which should be given the highest priority.

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LIONS FOR FRUIT-SELL

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by private interests to direct a service for its members. More than \$9,000,000 credit extended to grape producers and the \$5,000,000 to cotton cooperatives for handling their Fruit and vegetables, save in value only to the consumer. The Jardine, Secretary of Agriculture, and a member of the Board of Trade made for a more even distribution of the country "to prevent one other has a surplus." Co-operation b. "Through the United States controlled, farmers will retain a point of production to retain and give them increased bargaining power, reduce wasteful duplication of ripe fruits and vegetables, and a percentage of the price paid to the price to the consumer."

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Agriculture - 1929  
Improvement of

## Economic And Social Conditions Of Farm Life In Southern States

As Outlined by Dr. E. C. Branson, Kenan Professor of Social Science At The University of North Carolina

Economic Problems of Reclamation is the title of a recent bulletin issued by the U. S. Department of the interior. The authors of two articles contained in the bulletin are Dr. Alvin Johnson of Columbia University who discusses the Economic Aspects of Certain Reclamation Projects, and Dr. E. C. Branson who discusses Planned Colonies of Farm Owners. Before discussing the proposed plan (The Crisp-McKellar bill) of aided colonies of farm owners in Southern states, Dr. Branson outlines some economic and social conditions, tendencies, and drifts of farming in the South, as follows.

### Economic Conditions

Southern farmers are crop farmers mainly. Generally they are one-crop farmers, producing either cotton or tobacco as a main crop. They are food and feed farmers incidentally or accidentally. The necessity for work-stock feed explains our large acreage in corn. For more than a half-century there has been a steady increase of work stock and a steady decrease of milk and meat animals in the South. Cotton and tobacco farmers prevailingly consider it to be good sense and good business to produce cotton and tobacco and to buy farm supplies with cotton and tobacco dollars. As a result we produce vast volumes of cotton and tobacco wealth year by year, but the farm wealth retained is almost negligible; that is to say, wealth remaining in the hands of the farmers themselves. Neither the cotton farmer nor the community nor the state seems to be able to hold down at home the large acre values of cotton and tobacco wealth produced. When compared with the food and feed farmers of the Middle West, our per acre production of crop values is high, but our per worker production is low—so low as to be startling. Cotton

but it is an economic necessity for him to be a self-feeding farmer. "The first business of the farm," says Thomas Nixon Carver, "is to feed the farmer, the farm family, and the farm animals."

The farmer must, of course, consider comparative advantage in the production of everything he has to sell, which is something the tobacco farmer has not yet done; but also he must apply this economic doctrine to the food and feed consumed on his farm. If, as a spare-time proposition, he can produce for less than he pays for it delivered on his farm, then it is manifestly advantageous to do so. The commercial economist applies the doctrine at the point of production. He is interested in the volumes of wealth produced. The cotton-bacco farmer must also apply it at the point of consumption, if he is ever to retain any considerable portion of the wealth he produces.

Almost without exception the "master" farmers of the South have been live-at-home farmers. There are a few such farmers in every southern county. Invariably they are prosperous. Always they are good credit risks. Any banker anywhere in the South can quickly call over the farmers in his territory who produce cotton and tobacco on a home-raised bread-and-meat basis.

3. A further reason for the economic status of the crop farmers of the South lies in the fact that the per unit cost of production is excessive. It is so because cotton and tobacco involve a maximum of human labor and a minimum of horse and machine power. The average cotton and tobacco farmer of the South consumes his profits in the very act of production, and the pathos of it is that little or nothing is left of his year's income when his bills are settled and the balance sheet is struck. Of course, there is no way out except the usual way out, namely, by increasing the use of farm machinery and decreasing excessive, expensive human labor in the production of farm values. To be sure, cotton and tobacco do not lend themselves to machine production as easily as the grain crops do; nevertheless the low cost of cotton production by the prize winners in the Dallas News contest last year is clear proof that cotton costs can be immensely decreased by labor-saving machinery. The prize winners in

that contest produced cotton at from 3 to 6 cents per pound. If the states east of the Mississippi River can not produce cotton at something like these figures, then the cotton growers of the Gulf and South Atlantic states will be obliged to consider the doctrines of comparative advantage afresh—and the production of everything he has to sell, which is something the tobacco farmer has not yet done; agriculture in all the Southern states east of the Mississippi River. The price of survival in the agriculture of these states lies in intelligent adjustment to new conditions. The changing of farm systems is almost the most difficult of all economic changes. It calls for trained leadership and alert discipline during many generations. The agriculture of the South needs (1) to rise to the level of meat and milk animals adequate to the needs of our farm populations, and (2) to move as rapidly as possible into processing livestock products as rapidly as or

2. There is an appalling amount of sheer illiteracy and near-illiteracy in the farm regions of the South. More than nine-tenths of all the white illiteracy of the South is in our farm regions. The illiteracy of our country negroes reaches even higher ratios. Country schools in the South steadily improve, but they will always lag behind the school advantages of the towns and the cities. Here is a fundamental condition related to the high cost production of agricultural values.

3. An even greater obstacle lies in the types of southern farm tenancy. Farm tenancy in the Middle and Far West is a phase of capitalism. The movement needs to be marked by the caution of wisdom. Not even cotton and tobacco farmers can afford to practice diversification any more rapidly than fair prices and profits will reward their efforts.

### Social Conditions

But even more important is a consideration of the social conditions under which the South produces farm wealth.

1. The farmers of the South are settled in solitary farmsteads, from 3 to 7 families per square mile, scattered throughout our vast open spaces—barely more than 1 family per square mile in 11 Texas counties and illiteracy are twinborn social ills. Tenancy breeds illiteracy and lack adequate country community life. To be sure, there are small settlements, school and churches, neighborhoods, numerous subcommunities comparable with the farm villages of Europe and the Far East. As a result, the concert of wills for common advantages is extremely difficult. The farmers of the Western Hemisphere are not likely to develop the compact farm village life of the Old World countries, but not impossibly they can and must develop country community life based on transportation and communication. There is no reason why country community life in



han half of our cotton and nearly two-thirds of our tobacco, and the cotton and tobacco cooperatives have been unable to devise practical ways and means of controlling tenant crops with any advantage to the cooperating farmers.

4. Living from hand-to-mouth as most of our farmers live—both tenants and operating owners—the problems of farming as a business are well-nigh solvable. They can not or will not act together in group production, group buying, group processing, group credit, and self-defensive group action in farm policies. Furthermore, in the lonely life of isolated farms, there is developed an economic and social inertia that is stubbornly resistant to change of any sort. The country-minded farmers of the South will probably always remain in the country populations in the South. Southern cities are too few and too small to offer fair prices and profits for food and feed stuffs locally produced. Hence, our feed farming. At present the South is too rural, just as the North and East are too urban. We need fewer farmers; we need fewer tenants; distinctly we need fewer absentee farm landlords; but just as certainly the South needs more farm owners who cultivate the acres they own.

## ARTIFICIAL COTTON

**TO BE GROWN IN U.S.**  
NEW YORK, June 1.—Dr. C. J. Hedley-Thornton, British analytical and research chemist, who last December announced the discovery of an artificial cotton made from a newly-found fibre, today announced he has concluded negotiations for the growth and marketing of the fibre in the United States.

The announcement was made before he sailed for England tonight on the liner Majestic after a two weeks visit during which he conferred with financiers and leaders of the cotton industry and visited southern cotton centers.

He said that between 60,000 and 70,000 acres of land, chiefly in Florida, will be sown with the fibre plant—originally found in a bird's nest in British Guiana and developed by the crossing and re-crossing with chemical treatment of 85 different species.

## FARM COLONIES URGED FOR SOUTH

Dr. Branson Sees in Them Solution of Problem of Struggling Agriculture There.

## GIVES RESULTS OF SURVEY

Cites Social as Well as Economic Benefits From System of Organized Settlements.

Application to the South of the principles of reclamation and development of coordinated farm communities offers a way out to Southern farmers who are suffering from the disadvantages of an unorganized rural life and whose positions seem otherwise quite hopeless, in the opinion of Dr. E. C. Branson, Kenar Professor of Rural Economics at the University of North Carolina, an economic investigator of the Southern Reclamation Conference, cooperating with the Reclamation Bureau of the Federal Department of the Interior. His findings were recently made public by the Reclamation Bureau.

Dr. Branson finds farming in the present the South is too rural, just as the North and East are too urban. We need fewer farmers; we need fewer tenants; distinctly we need fewer absentee farm landlords; but just as certainly the South needs more farm owners who cultivate the acres they own.

"It is difficult," Dr. Branson says "to make farming a profitable business. It is even more difficult to make farming a satisfactory way of life. Both ideals call for farm owners grouped in colonies and busy solving together the economic and social problems of farm life and livelihood.

"Planned rural settlements," he continues, "are a distinct advance in community organization. The area of land on which a colony would be founded would be large enough to give it an agriculture independent of that of the surrounding country. State like North Carolina, which has 22,000,000 idle wilderness acres, would mean land enough for at least 200 farms. Only land having good soil or soil capable of restoring its fertility quickly and at small cost would be acquired and developed. The land would be bought wholesale, subdivided into suitable sized farms, and farm labor tracts and sold at cost, including development and administrative expenses. Terms of purchase would be long and the interest rate low.

**Advances From Credit Fund.**

"An agricultural credit fund would be provided from which advances could be made to supplement settlers' capital in improving farms and erecting community improvements. Advances would be repaid in long time amortized payments. This would leave most of the settler's capital intact to be used for purchasing farm implements, tools and machinery,

work stock, meat and milk animals, seeds and fertilizer, and for defraying living expenses while farm income is being developed.

"A development and crop program would be thought out in advance of settlement. Every farm would be adjacent to a trunk or lateral drain where drainage is needed. Where tracts require clearing, a portion of each farm would be cleared and prepared for cultivation before being offered for settlement, thus relieving the farmers of the drudgeries and delay in farming while clearing wilderness acres. This would permit settlers to grow a crop the first year. Roads would be provided so that each farm would be given swift access to the colony centre on the one hand and on the other to buying and shipping centres near and remote.

"The costs of providing drainage and other improvements for the benefit of the community would be spread over the farms in the settlement and repaid as part of the cost of the land. The communities would be large enough so that they could organize in both social and business affairs. The advantages offered settlers in this plan would attract experienced farmers of thrift and integrity and create a permanent community of earnest, intelligent people who would be equipped to utilize the benefits of scientific knowledge, modern farm machinery, and teamwork in the selection of crops to be grown and preparation and marketing of products. It would introduce into farming the benefits of mass production of standard quality farm products. Means would be provided for helping the farmers in solving problems of production, marketing, credit and other factors entering into their social and economic life. The experts of the land-grant colleges and State universities and other public institutions would be freely called upon for service in making these into communities of prosperous and contented farmers.

**Easy to Find the Necessary Land.**

"It is fairly easy to find in any Southern State advantageously located bodies of prime farm land ranging from 8,000 to 15,000 acres belonging to single owners. In a State like North Carolina, which contains 22,000,000 idle wilderness acres, there are 15,000,000 acres which were once the best farm lands of the State. These conditions exist in every other Southern State, even more pronouncedly than in North Carolina. "These colonies ought not to be located in areas remote from local markets, improved highways and trunk-line railways directly connecting with the larger and more distant markets. A most important consideration is the location of farm colonies in alert social areas. They ought not to be located in regions where life has been in the doldrums for the last half century, no matter how fertile the land.

"The proposed colonies of directed farm owners are distinctly much more than an economic problem. It is the problem of creating social values in farm regions. The total area of reclaimed lands under the plan proposed would be small. They would furnish demonstrations in the South of the directed efforts of home owners in solving economic and social rural problems."

## AIDING THE COTTON GROWERS.

A week or so ago the daily papers announced in glaring headlines that a hundred million dollars or so was to be allotted by a paternal Government to aid the cotton growers of the South to hold their crops until the price of that staple should go higher. This was apparently to be accomplished through the medium of cooperative organizations, which would store the crop and obtain advances on its value, until better prices might be offered when it could be sold to advantage.

It is wellknown that the Negro farmers of the South are the prime movers in the matter of growing cotton. Eliminate the Negro from that section, which happened in some places in the early days of the migration to the North, and the result was deserted cotton fields and unpicked crops withering on the stem. But it is not at all likely that those Negro farmers who remained in the South and helped to raise the great crops of cotton will participate at all in this aid granted by a generous government. The cooperative feature of the relief granted in that section only takes in the white farmers and plantation owners.

This was demonstrated in the case of the farmers loan banks, where no member of the darker race was included on any of the cooperative boards, and none of them could secure loans, no matter how good the security offered or how great their need for the money. No representation was granted the race on the Farm Loan Board at Washington, nor could any consideration be secured for the cases of those Negro farmers who were entitled to loan relief but could not get it through the local boards.

It is useless to discuss the matter of farm relief as offering any aid to the Negro farmer of the South, in the view of the fact that the racial prejudice cherished in that section bars him from sharing with his white neighbor any measure of cooperative relief. It will need special measures and special machinery to carry any form of farm relief to the black farmers of the South, who have done and are

still doing so much to make that section the great cotton growing empire of the world. Without the Negro cotton grower as a factor, the reign of King Cotton would be in danger. The black farmer should be included in all measures to aid the cotton growing industry.

**Twelve Directors Named for Association To Supply Farmers With Farm Supplies and Money.**

Under the charter as read before the meeting today, membership will be limited to persons engaged in agricultural pursuits and each member shall have one vote. Private property of members shall not be subject to payment of debts of the corporation, which is organized under the cooperative marketing act of Georgia.

When the organization has been perfected and begins functioning speakers at the meeting today said it would be eligible to the benefits of the federal farm loan law and the association may establish warehouses for handling the products of its members. The charter also provides for the acquisition of trade marks, producing, canning, selling of agricultural products.

The co-operative elected nine directors from Georgia and three from South Carolina for terms arranged so that four expire each year, with new directors to be chosen for a period of three years. Directors chosen were: W. E. McDougall, Statesboro; J. F. Darby, Vidalia; C. B. Jones, Richboro; J. A. Cromarty, Hazlehurst; Hubert Keller, Savannah; H. C. Beasley, Reidsville; E. L. Hattaway, Alma; J. B. Wright, Cairo.

Savannah, Ga., October 28.—(AP)—Organization of the Southeastern Agricultural Products Co-operatives Consolidated was perfected here today.

**Georgia-Carolina Farmers  
Organize Agricultural  
Co-operative Association**



11-23-24  
AIDING THE COTTON GROWERS.

**SAVING THE COTTON GROWERS.**

A week or so ago the daily papers announced in glaring headlines that a hundred million dollars or so was to be allotted by a paternal Government to aid the cotton growers of the South to hold their crops until the price of that staple should go higher. This was apparently to be accomplished by *new* *methods* of cooperative organizations, which would store the crop and obtain advances on its value, until better prices might be offered when it could be sold to advantage.

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hundred farmers and Georgia and South Carolina meeting at the call of the Savannah Board of Trade.

The organization under its charter will be authorized to buy and sell products of its members, purchase machinery and farm supplies and loan money to members on warehouse receipts.

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TO BE GROWN IN U.S.  
NEW YORK, N.Y.  
Wm. L. Thornion, British an-

"to make farming a profitable business. It is even more difficult to make farming a satisfactory way of life. Both ideals call for farm owners grouped in colonies and busy solving together the economic and social problems of farm life and livelihood. **Easy to Find the Necessary Land.** "Planned rural settlements," he continued, "are a distinct advance in community organization. The area of land on which a colony would be located would be large enough to belong to single owners. In a given State like North Carolina, which has an agricultural independent country, there are 22,000,000 idle wilderness acres of the surrounding country."

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10-29-20

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URGED FOR SOUTH

fore he sailed for England a few weeks visit during which he conferred with financiers and leaders of the cotton industry and southern cotton centers. He said that between 70,000 acres of land, chiefly in Florida, will be sown with the fibre plant—originally found in a bird's nest in Britin Guiana and developed by the crossing and re-crossing with chemical treatment of 85 different species.

That would mean land enough for at least 200 farms. Only land having there are 15,000,000 acres which would be the best farm lands of the State. These conditions exist in every Good soil or soil capable of restoring its fertility quickly and at small cost other Southern State, even more pronouncedly than in North Carolina. would be acquired and developed. "These colonies ought not to be located in areas remote from local markets, improved highways and subdivided into suitable sized farm tracts and sold at trunk-line railroads directly connected with the larger and more distant and farm labor markets. A most important consideration is the location of farm colonies, including development and administrative expenses. Terms of purchase would be long and the interest in alert social areas. They ought not to be located in regions where life has been in the doldrums for the last half century, no matter how fast rate low.

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# Georgia-Carolina Farmers Organize Agricultural Co-operative Association



# Agriculture-1929

## Improvement of

### PLANT PROTECTION BY AIRPLANE

*literary digest*  
*May 20 1929*  
*Mr. Z.*  
DUSTING cotton-fields from the air with poisonous clouds, to kill the boll-weevil—a method described some time ago in these columns—has now definitely proved its worth, we are told by S. R. Winters, writing under the above title in *Popular Aviation and Aeroplanes* (Chicago). The airplane is used also, to inform us, to collect air-borne spores, in the investigation of plant diseases and to kill the larvae of mosquitoes in the swamps where they breed. Writes Mr. Winters:

Scattering clouds of poisonous dust, the airplane is being underwritten as a form of

attack against a swarm of insects that was stripping a grove of catalpa trees of their foliage. The novel experiment was successful, and it at once suggested the possibility of employing the airplane for the control of insect pests. One year later the airplane was drafted against the encroachments of the boll-weevil. The insecticide, consisting of calcium arsenate, was dropt over the side of the airplane by hand or poured through an opening in the bottom. Later came the hand-crank hopper and, finally, the air-suction hopper, which distributes dust with an absence of human equation.

It is a far cry from the initial test flights in Louisiana in 1922 to the well-defined, officially approved cotton-dusting in 1928. The field laboratory at Tallulah, Louisiana, owned and operated by the Department of Agriculture, is composed of five buildings

to control insects? Can dusting be done economically from the air?

The last question is answered with a proviso, namely, "The operation could be considered only as a community affair or for planters whose acreage would be large enough to justify purchasing more than one plane. Many districts in the South have now reached the point where the desirability of community weevil control can be seen."

The commercial cotton-duster may be hired by cotton-farmers whose crops are infested. The cotton-grower pays a stipulated figure for each acre dusted, and the cost to each farmer does not exceed that of ground methods of applying the poisonous dust.

The so-called air-suction hopper evolved from the crude method of dropping bags of insecticide over the side of an airplane. The poisonous dust is conveyed by a stream of air flowing down through the hopper, and collected by a funnel pointing forward over the plane wing. The amount of suction is proportional to the speed.

The records indicate that to treat cotton at the rate of six pounds per acre it is necessary for the plane to cover a swath 160 feet wide. Refinements and adjustments have been made in the hopper until it distributes insecticides in a fairly satisfactory manner—in fact, without this device, it is doubtful that cotton-dusting from airplane, in a uniform and sweeping way, would have been assured the success which has attended six years of effort.

J. L. Webb, associate entomologist of the Department of Agriculture, reports: "It is by far the most expeditious means of putting insecticide on cotton. An airplane can accomplish in one day what 100 of the best and most efficient ground machines could accomplish in the same time. Airplane dusting is a permanent agricultural project—it is here to stay!"

The Department, in its investigations to determine the distribution of spores which cause rust in wheat, sought the airplane, we are told, as the only suitable vehicle for exploring the upper air. A mechanical spore-trap with six compartments, each containing a slide, smeared with vaseline, was attached to the wing struts of an airplane and provided with a wire control, operated by the observer in the cockpit. We read:

On one of the slides, exposed five minutes at an altitude of about two miles, 244 spores were trapt. "The results," concludes the Department, "indicate that large numbers of spores and pollen grain are carried several thousand feet above the surface of the earth during the growing season. It is conceivable that a local epidemic might occur in one locality as a result of the blowing in of spores from an infection center

another distant locality."

Airplanes probably will be useful in studying the dissemination of many pathogenic fungi, and probably will aid in the solution of problems connected with the development of epidemics of plant diseases.

## Fewer Weevils Survive



Tediously counting the dead and live boll weevils (inset) in a ton of Spanish moss (above) indicates what percentage of insects survived the winter and are ready to attack the new cotton crop.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—(AP)◆

—By a simple although infinitely tedious process that has come to have an immediate effect on the cotton market, the United States bureau of entomology predicts each year the probable damage from boll weevils.

It consists of collecting Spanish moss from various sections of several cotton states and counting the dead and live weevils. The moss is gathered from February to March under conditions favorable to hibernation and the percentage of weevils that survived the win-

ter is taken as an indication of the damage the new cotton crop may suffer from the insects if the weather and season are normal.

The survival report for 1929 shows a decrease in the percentage of live weevils for all sections studied, with the exception of South Carolina. If the weather during the growing season is no more favorable to the weevil than usual, the damage to cotton this year as compared to last year may decrease in fair proportion to the percentage of indicated weevil survival, entomologists say.



Photograph by courtesy of Popular Aviation (Chicago)

WHEN THE BUSY BOLL-WEEVIL GETS A JOLT THAT RUINS HIS APPETITE

The airplane flying over this Southern cotton-field is equipped with special apparatus for dusting the plants with insect-killing powder, as described in the article.

and, including the flying-field, covers about seven acres.

The flying personnel consists of two pilots, one mechanic, three machinists, and one general engineer. This field station, while primarily dedicated to studies in devising means for the effectual control of the cotton boll-weevil, is not restricted to the airplane as a combat method. The appropriation to be expended during the current year in making warfare on this pest amounts to \$169,920. Of this sum, one-fourth will be utilized in experiments with aircraft.

The government experiments have answered, in the affirmative, three questions. Can the planes be operated over a cotton-field in such a manner that the field will be throughout subjected to the cloud of dust? Can the dust be forced down from the plane into the cotton-plants and be made to adhere to them in a quantity sufficient

insurance for agricultural crops against insect depredations and as a foe to mosquitoes and other pests that bother mankind. Down in the Cotton Belt of the South, the boll-weevil is subject to air attacks; the cotton-flea hopper is receiving dosages of sulfur from airplane; out in the Middle West the spores of wheat rust are being caught in airplane-traps; and at Quantico, Virginia—the headquarters of the Marines—Paris green is being sprayed, from sea-planes, onto mosquito-infested swamps.

It was seven years ago this August that the airplane was first introduced to the spectacular undertaking of spraying insect-killing dust on destructive pests. The Air Service of the United States Army, in cooperation with the State Experiment Station of Ohio, launched a sweeping air



# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF COLORED FARMERS

1. CO-OPERATION. This movement has for its main objective the bringing about of a more co-operative effort on the part of Negro Farmers. *Modern Farmer*

2. SIGNS OF THE TIMES. The signs of the times point to co-operative effort in all directions, whether in production or distribution. The springing up of numerous chain stores is a splendid example of co-operative buying and selling exemplified in every community. *4-1-29*

3. AMERICAN FARM FEDERATION. A splendid example of this is the magnificent piece of co-operative work being demonstrated by the American Farm Bureau Federation (white). This organization is ten years old with a membership of 303,000 in forty states. They have led the way. *Thru the Press*

4. URGENT NECESSITY. The colored farmers position, with the vast majority living in southern states make the necessity for co-operative organization all the more urgent in order that economic life might be protected, and that the Negro Farmers might build for themselves a fuller and more satisfying social life. *Press*

5. SELF HELP. Not for charity, but the desire of helping himself, the Negro Farmer must take his place beside his white brother in the present economic struggle, and thereby reap the magnificent harvest that comes from a united co-operative effort.

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WHY NOT BECOME A MEMBER?  
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For further information write National Federation of Colored Farmers, Vincennes Hotel, 36th and Vincennes Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

## THE BETTERMENT OF FARM LIFE

The task of improving the lot of the farmer must take into account the betterment of farming conditions and farm life in three general directions. First, farmers generally need to be brought to better and more efficient methods of agriculture, to the end that they can grow better crops at less cost; second, they must be taught to market their crops to the best advantage, through cooperative action, so that they may receive prices that are profitable to them; and third, the home life of the farmers must be improved.

The latter aspect of farm life is commanding the attention of thoughtful farm leaders. Such men as former Secretary of Agriculture William M. Jardine have stressed the need of a better home life on the farms as the fundamental problem of agriculture today.

Farm homes as a rule are lacking in the comforts and conveniences that go to make life pleasant. Some rural homes have all the comforts and conveniences that any one could desire, but the great majority of farms are lacking in them. Only a small percentage of farm homes are well equipped with modern appliances, and they are, in the main, those that are fortunately situated.

According to the last census, only 10 per cent of American farm homes had water piped in; 7 per cent had gas or electric lighting; about 38 per cent had telephones. In some sections, more favorably located than others, the percentages ran higher. In New England, for instance, 48 per cent of the farms had water piped into the homes, and nearly 25 per cent in the States of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania had the same advantage. In Massachusetts 28 per cent of the farms were equipped with gas or electric lights; in Utah, where many farmers live in villages, 43 per cent of the homes enjoyed this convenience, and in California 26 per cent.

In the matter of telephones the percentage of farm homes having this advantage, according to the last census, was as high as 86 per cent in Iowa, 78 per cent in Kansas, 76 per cent in Nebraska, 73 per cent in Illinois, 66 per cent in Indiana and 62 per cent in Minnesota and Missouri.

In the Southern States, we believe, the percentages run considerably lower in all respects.

Aside from modern appliances which make living easier and more pleasant on the farms, there is a need for improvement in farm houses themselves. Discussing this need, the 1928 Yearbook of Agricul-

ture says:

The architecture of the farmhouse needs study. Houses built to fit farm wants need not lack either beauty or convenience. Part of the money provided for the farm home should be set aside for shrubbery and other adornments. It should be easy to plant the lesson of beauty in the minds and hearts of rural young people, so that when they become farmers their desires will not be limited to the attainment of economic security, but will include also the provision of beauty and harmony in the home and its surroundings. Instruction given to the young people of the farm in home decoration will return its cost a thousandfold. It should be emphasized, however, that the problem is not merely to transplant to the farm what has already been worked out by the city, but rather to adapt improved appliances to the special needs of the farm home.

The percentages with respect to farm comforts and conveniences are now undoubtedly a good bit higher than they were when the last census was taken. But they are still relatively low for the country as a whole.

The electrification of rural sections, in which striking progress has been made in the last few years, will bring to the farms a great deal in the way of conveniences. The percentage of farm homes having electricity is now low, but it is climbing. According to Dr. E. A. White, director of the National Committee on the Relation of Electricity to Agriculture, in 1925 only 500,000 of the 6,500,000 farms in the United States had electric service in any form, either through isolated plants or through favorable location to power stations.

The following discussion of rural electrification, taken from The New York Times, contains some interesting information on the subject:

"A comparison of the use of telephones on farms in the United States forms a contrast to the extension of electrical privileges. In 1926, statistics showed that 2,500,000 farm homes had telephones, or approximately 39 per cent, as compared to less than one-quarter of that number enjoying electric service.

"Even a cursory consideration of the possibilities of electrical power on the farm points out a multitude of services and conveniences that grow out of its use. First, and most general, is its use for lighting, in which field its superiority is generally acknowledged.

"It was shown by experiment in Wisconsin that the time consumed doing the chores around the farm was reduced 35 per cent under electric lights from that required by the use of the lantern. Other forms of uses to which electric power may be applied include the following: Artificial lighting of poultry houses (the pro-

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housekeeping by the use of vacuum cleaner, drawing water, sewing, cooking, washing dishes, ice cream freezing, cream separating, grinding cane, grinding cane, pumping water, irrigation, orchard work and many others.

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Agriculture - 1929  
Improvement of  
Albany, Ga., Herald  
Wednesday, February 27, 1929

## Early Planting of Sweet Potatoes Is Urged on Negroes.

Negro farmers are urged to plant sweet potatoes around April 1, in a statement issued today by W. R. King, local Negro farm demonstration agent. Seven-year tests at the Coastal Plain Experiment Station at Tifton show that potatoes planted April 1 has 218 growing days against 173 for potatoes planted May 15, and against 127 for potatoes planted July 1, the statement says, and that the yield from April 1 settings averages almost one-third more than from those set out May 15, and four times as large as from settings of July 1. Also, it is pointed out, potatoes sold from April 1 will, if dug for the early market, sell for more than three times as much per bushel as from a July setting. This money also comes in at a time when it will be of material help in financing the completion of crop cultivation and in the cost of harvesting other crops, the statement says.

"The tests at Tifton also indicate that highest yields may be expected from three foot rows with the plants spaced 16 inches in the drill, while the fertilizer tests are not complete, the indications are that an application of 800 pounds of an 8-4-4 fertilizer per acre is the most profitable," the statement concludes.

Eatonton, Ga., Messenger  
Thursday, August 8, 1929  
NEGRO CHAMPION CHICKEN

### RAISER OF PUTNAM CO.

Jack Slaton Boswell, a sixteen year old negro namesake of Governor Jack Slaton, according to some recently compiled and verified poultry statistics is the champion chicken raiser of Putnam County. Slaton is a poultry raiser on a bona fide scale and does not raise his fowls from near-by roosts in neighboring barn-

yards, either on moonlight or dark nights, and his poultry raising is a side line to his regular work as a porter for Eatonton's leading grocery store. Asked as to his methods, and the reasons for his really wonderful success, Slaton replied that he liked chickens to eat and liked to watch them grow off, and most of all liked to make money selling them to the poultry cars.

Slaton raises his chickens confined in pens from the time they are hatched until they are marketed and practically ninety per cent of his losses this year have been from accidentally killing the very young chickens in moving their coops. He raises his chickens on "common sense and corn" the former when they are very small and the latter when fattening for marketing.

Early in the spring this young negro ordered one hundred day old chicks from Missouri. Of this number he raised and marketed eighty-eight, at a good profit.

Recently he ordered another hundred, and as an accommodation sold twenty-five of this order to a local Post Office employee. Three of this number died and two were killed in moving their coop. As his first purchase from his poultry profits, Slaton purchased a first class bicycle to expedite his work as a porter, and paid "spot cash" for the bicycle. Local poultry raisers have been amazed by this young negro's extraordinary success as an amateur chicken raiser and he has the profits and the chickens to prove his facts and figures for 1929. Next spring he hopes still greater success, will crown his efforts on a larger scale.

Quitman, Ga., Free Press  
Friday, August 16, 1929

## NEGRO SCHOOLS AND WORK FARM TRAINING.

One of the most interesting pieces of work being done in the county centers in the vocational agricultural work done this past year at Simmon Hill and Cross Roads, two negro schools in the Dry Lake community where E. E. Williamson is principal at Simmon Hill and teaches agriculture at both these schools.

This work is thoroughly practical, though of course a good teacher and a practical program would get no results if the farmers took the position that they knew all about farming and could not learn anything else. However they do not and they have done

Georgia.  
good work under the direction of Professor Williamson. He had farm projects at school and taught the boys the theory of certain kinds of farm work, at the same time actually doing the work on farm plats. As cotton is very important this has been one of the main crops to study. In the school community they have 70 cotton projects ranging from one to two acres for the boys and from five to seven and on up to thirty acres for the older farmers.

### COTTON PROJECTS.

With these cotton projects the boys and men were taught in the classes at school in regard to methods to raise cotton and beat the boll weevil. Seed selection, or securing improved seed, rapid cultivation, fertilizing with high grade guano and lots of it, was stressed. They were told to use from 600 to 800 pounds of nitrate of soda to the acre as a side dressing to stimulate rapid development of the plant. This was to be done when the cotton was first chopped.

Of course all the farmers did not follow these directions exactly; some applied the soda as directed when the cotton was small, some applied it when the plant was about 18 inches high and some when the squares began to form. Not all of them felt they were able to buy as much soda and fertilizer as was advised. The results will be very interesting to all. Those who used soda early and who fertilized heavily are getting the best yield. As an account of amounts used and cultivation on all these projects are being kept the farmers will be able to compare results and see which ones get best yields.

They were also instructed as to planting early, using early maturing varieties, picking up squares and poisoning as a means of keeping down boll weevil damage. Dempsey Wooten is one of the farmers who has a cotton project and has been working with Williamson. He ginned the first bale in the county and is getting good results generally.

### COTTON CONTESTS.

As is known there are various contests in which prizes are offered for good yields. There is a state wide contest for colored boys in which the Chilean Nitrate of Soda Co. offers prizes for the best cotton. Around these schools mentioned there are ten boys in that contest, each cultivating two acres.

There is another contest which is open to white and colored. Prizes are offered by Sears-Roebuck Co. for the best cotton stalks. One stalk and the number of bolls and quality count for prizes. A number of boys and men will compete in this.

### OTHER CROP PROJECTS.

Among the other school projects are corn and spring truck projects of from

one to five acres in which both boys and men are working. Improved methods were used, accounts kept and results noted. The teacher tells of the different types of soil and what fertilizers they call for, of how to cultivate, of how to keep records on crops, and other things which introduce business methods in farming.

### FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM.

This vocational agricultural work is based on a 4 year program. The first year: Farm crops, which covers the sort of work just discussed—how to increase yields and improve land.

Second year: Live stock and poultry. Improving breeds, feeding, pasturage, disease control. Poultry and eggs for market.

Third year: Horticulture. Orchards, small fruits, berries, gardens.

Fourth year: Farm management. Home improvement and sanitation. Health conditions.

Of course the first year's work is carried on each year and amplified and with each successive year the work done the previous years is continued and improved. This program carried out by a competent leader with the school as a center of operations will improve any community, white or colored, in rural districts.

The Free Press takes it for granted that the entire county is interested in any work which will improve farming conditions and bring better results to any group of farmers, and the results of the various projects in the Dry Lake school communities will be reported as soon as the crops are gathered and marketed.

### THE TEACHER.

Incidentally, the teacher, E. E. Williamson, who is the leader in this farm program, has been in the county less than two years. He does the usual school work in addition to the agricultural work. He is in the work the entire year instead of just for the school term. He went to the state industrial college this summer for a five weeks' course of study. Five-eighths of his salary is paid by the federal Smith-Hughes Fund and the balance from the county school funds.

Of course the point to this is that in an agricultural county like this all the important county schools should have vocational agricultural work and if they do not have it the proportion of this Smith-Hughes fund which could be had in the county goes to some other county.

Brooks county tradition, won prizes on every exhibit. The vocational agriculture class from Simmon Hill and Dry Lake schools, under E. E. Williamson, teacher, sent a farm exhibit to Atlanta which won third prize at the Southeastern fair.

Oscar Thomas, a Negro farmer and member of the adult night class at the school, won three first prizes on sugar cane and a second prize on country lard. Cleveland Wooten, another member of the adult class, won a prize for the best cotton stalk in the cotton stalk contest in which there were hundreds of entries.

These Negroes under E. E. Williamson's leadership, have done remarkable work this year. Boys and men have cotton projects in which many of them have made from a bale to a bale and a half an acre. Wooten's prize stalk came from his one-acre cotton project. He planted Petty's Toole seed and made 720 pounds of lint and 1,500 pounds of seed. He sold this for \$143.72; his expense, including land rent, totaled \$44.06, leaving a net profit of \$99.57, plus his \$10 prize for the best stalk.

Friday, August 2, 1929

## ARCHIBALD TO HEAD TOUR OF COLORED FARMERS OVER HART COUNTY AUGUST 9

On Friday, August 9th (Friday after 1st Sunday) I am inviting each and every one of you to join me in visiting the outstanding Negro farm sections in this county.

Our party shall leave the school building at 9 a. m., for Flat Shoals, Camp Ground, Colored Zion, Saint John, Maple Springs, Flat Rock, Saint James, McGee Bridge road, Alford Bridge road, Walter Brown's, back to Hartwell.

At Flat Shoals we shall be organized into committees. Each committee shall have a definite phase of farm life for observation.

We believe that great good can be accomplished by such a survey and we are therefore asking all white land owners to encourage their Negro tenants to set aside all business and join the party.

GEO. E. ARCHIBALD,  
Teacher of Agriculture, Hartwell, Ga.

Negro FARMERS  
SH PRODUCTS  
Excellent Exhibits Entered in  
Brooks Fair

QUITMAN, Ga., Oct. 19.--For the first time in the history of the county, Negro farmers had an exhibit in a big fair, and true to



Columbus, Ga.

SUN

MAY 9 1929

## Picturesque Case of Negro Farmer in Dougherty County.

One cannot help wondering, as he reads so much about the desertion of farms throughout the South by the sons of farmers and by the entire family, for that matter, if it will come about, in future years, that a large part of the farm holdings will pass into the hands of Negro agriculturists? Our demonstration agents give striking accounts from time to time of the success of Negro farmers, not only in cotton, but in truck farming, stock and poultry raising and in all that pertains to agriculture. And now comes a remarkable story of the passing of a noted plantation tract into the ownership of a Dougherty county Negro farmer.

We read in the Albany Herald of the purchase of the old Phil Cook plantation, embracing 1400 acres, near the Terrell county line, by a former Negro tenant farmer who has lived and worked on the plantation for many years. This man and his family now occupy the state-ly white-columned mansion formerly occupied by General Cook and his family during a great part of the latter's lifetime. General Cook represented the Third district in Congress and later became Georgia's secretary of state, holding the latter office until his death. The Cook place was recently sold at auction for the purpose of effecting a division among the Cook heirs and it was knocked down to John Murphy, a descendant of one of the former family slaves, for \$16,000.

The Albany Herald in recounting this incident says:

This Negro farmer, the descendant of slaves, thus becomes the owner of a plantation that is fairly typical of those landed estates which in an earlier day were the pride of this section. Lee, Terrell, Randolph, Calhoun, Dougherty, Baker, Mitchell, Early and Decatur counties embraced scores of great plantations ranging in area from one to three or four thousand acres each. Their owners constituted the landed aristocracy of this section, for they were men of wealth and influence whose sons and daughters enjoyed the best educational and social advantages and whose country homes were models of elegance and comfort.

During the Civil War these great southwest Georgia plantations sent tons of food supplies to the Confederate armies. So rich was their contribution to the support of General Lee's all-too-often hungry legions that this section came to be known as the "Egypt of the Confederacy".

Now one of these fine old plantations—a place that was a social center till long after the Civil war, whose owners made it yield abundant crops and maintained it in fine condition, but who in time felt the

lure of the city and left 1,400 splendid acres to the tender mercies of croppers—is bid in at an auction sale by a descendant of those who, as slaves, helped make "the glory that was" in a day of rural magnificence.

There is so much that is indicative of the altered and altering status of the South in the foregoing transaction that a story or play might centre about it. Its economic import is as striking as its picturesqueness. For it proves beyond doubt the advance of the Negro agriculturist to an important place in Southern agrarian life. The American Negro is well adapted by disposition, physique and habit to successful farming. In all Southern states, the policy of agricultural departments during recent years has been to give instruction in scientific agriculture to Negro farmers through demonstration agents, in cotton, poultry and stock-raising contests, and by encouraging them to exhibit at county fairs.

We have had occasion to comment a number of times on the fine work of the students at the Georgia State Industrial College for Negroes near Savannah and on the excellent displays of Negro farmers at the Chattahoochee Valley Fair.

It is well to offer every encouragement to Negroes to stay on the farms, and, aside from the help given them by our state agricultural department and through a program of good roads, the rigidly impartial administration of justice in the case of abuses or terrorizing of Negroes in the country should be one of the most practical means of making farm life attractive to them.

Happily, Ku Klux terrorism is almost a thing of the past in this state and lynching has been for several years on the decrease. Let it be stamped out altogether, give the industrious rural Negro an opportunity to educate his children and to market profitably his produce and we believe there will be a substantial increase in Georgia of Negro farmers of the calibre of John Murphy and many others like him.

## TELEGRAPH

Macon Ga  
APR 8 1929

### WHERE WALK GHOSTS

The flavor of romance is not lacking in the recent sale of the old Phil Cook plantation, in Lee county, to a Negro who has been a tenant on its broad acres for many years.

The Cook plantation, embracing 1,400 acres, is near the Terrell county line, and on it its owner, General Phil Cook, lived for many years. He represented the Third District in Congress, then became Georgia's secretary of state, holding the latter office till his death. He was succeeded as secretary of state by his son and namesake, who had been born on the Lee county plantation, and who in turn held the office in which his father had died till his own death some years ago.

The Cook place was sold at auction for the purpose of effecting a division among the heirs.

The sale attracted a large crowd, but the bidding was not spirited, owing to the fact that large plantations are not now in demand. The Negro tenant to whom the place was knocked down obtained it for \$16,000. He is John Murphy, a practical and successful farmer who is highly thought of in his community.

This Negro farmer, the descendant of slaves, thus becomes the owner of a plantation that is fairly typical of those landed estates which in an earlier day were the pride of this section. Lee, Terrell, Randolph, Calhoun, Dougherty, Baker, Mitchell, Early and Decatur counties embraced scores of great plantations ranging in area from one to three or four thousand acres each. Their owners constituted the landed aristocracy of this section, for they were men of wealth and influence whose sons and daughters enjoyed the best educational and social advantages, and whose country homes were models of elegance and comfort.

During the Civil War these great Southwest Georgia plantations sent tons of food supplies to the Confederate armies. So rich was their contribution to the support of General Lee's all-too-often hungry legions that this section came to be known as the "Egypt of the Confederacy."

In later years the big plantation has had its troubles. The tenant system had shortcomings the nature and wastefulness of which are well known. Once fertile acres suffered from neglect on the part of those who did not own them. The "country aristocracy" moved to town, and its sons became merchants, lawyers, doctors and manufacturers instead of farmers.

Now one of these fine old plantations—a place that was a social center till long after the Civil War, whose owners made it yield abundant crops and maintained it in fine condition, but who in time felt the lure of the city and left 1,400 splendid acres to the tender mercies of croppers—is bid in at an auction sale by a descendant of those who, as slaves, helped make "the glory that was" in a day of rural magnificence. For great changes have come to pass in 60 years, and the big plantation of a golden age can no longer hold its own.—Albany Herald.

## A Picturesque Georgia Negro Planter

One cannot help wondering, as he reads so much about the desertion of farms throughout the South by the sons of farmers and by the entire family, for that matter, if it will come about, in future years, that a large part of the farm holdings will pass into the hands of Negro agriculturists? Our demonstration agents give striking accounts from time to time of the success of Negro farmers, not only in cotton, but in truck farming, stock and poultry raising and in all that pertains to agriculture. And now comes a remarkable story of the passing of a noted plantation tract into the ownership of a Dougherty County Negro farmer.

We read in The Albany Herald of the purchase of the old Phil Cook plantation, embracing 1400 acres, near the Terrell county line, by a former Negro tenant farmer who has lived and worked on the plantation for many years. This man and his family now occupy the state-ly white-columned mansion formerly occupied by Gen. Cook and his family during a great part of the latter's lifetime. Gen. Cook represented the Third District in Congress and lat-

er became Georgia's Secretary of State, holding the latter office until his death. The Cook place was recently sold at auction for the purpose of effecting a division among the Cook heirs and it was knocked down to John Murphy, a descendant of one of the former family slaves, for \$16,000.

The Albany Herald in recounting this incident says:

The Negro farmer, the descendant of slaves, thus becomes the owner of a plantation that is fairly typical of those landed estates which in an earlier day were the pride of this section. Lee, Terrell, Randolph, Calhoun, Dougherty, Baker, Mitchell, Early and Decatur Counties embraced scores of great plantations ranging in area from one to three or four thousand acres each. Their owners constituted the landed aristocracy of this section, for they were men of wealth and influence whose sons and daughters enjoyed the best educational and social advantages and whose country homes were models of elegance and comfort.

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There is so much that is indicative of the altered and altering status of the South in the foregoing transaction that a story or play might centre about it. Its economic import is as striking as its picturesqueness. For it proves beyond doubt the advance of the Negro agriculturist to an important place in Southern agrarian life. The American Negro is well adapted by disposition, physique and habit to successful farming. In all Southern States, the policy of agricultural departments during recent years has been to give instruction in scientific agriculture to Negro farmers through demonstration agents, in cotton, poultry and stock-raising contests, and by encouraging them to exhibit at county fairs.

We have had occasion to comment a number of times on the fine work of the students at the Georgia State Industrial College for Negroes near Savannah and on the excellent displays of Negro farmers at the Chattahoochee Valley Fair.

It is well to offer every encouragement to Negroes to stay on the farms, and, aside from the help given them by our State agricultural department and through a program of good roads, the rigidly impartial administration of justice in the case of abuses or terrorizing of Negroes in the country should be one of the most practical means of making farm life attractive to them.

Happily, Ku Klux terrorism is almost a thing

of the past in this State and lynching has been for several years on the decrease. Let it be stamped out altogether, give the industrious rural Negro an opportunity to educate his children and to market profitably his produce and we believe there will be a substantial increase in Georgia of Negro farmers of the calibre of John Murphy and many others like him.—Columbus Enquirer-Sun.



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# Negro Planter

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The Albany Herald in recounting this incident says:

The Negro owner of a plantation, thus becomes the owner of a plantation that is fairly typical of those landed estates which in an earlier day were the pride of this section. Lee, Terrell, Randall, Calhoun, Dougherty, Baker, Mitchell, Early and Decatur Counties embraced scores of great plantations ranging in area from one to three or four thousand acres each. Their owners constituted the landed aristocracy of this section, for they were men of wealth and influence whose sons and daughters enjoyed the best educational and social advantages and whose country homes were models of elegance and comfort.

During the Civil War, almost 600,000 men from the west Georgia plantations sent tons of food and supplies to the Confederate armies. So rich was their contribution to the suppression of General Lee's all-too-often hungry army that this section came to be known as the "Egypt of the Confederacy."

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the rubber, tin, and other departments and the unimpaired administration of the law, byroads, the rigidly impartial administration of justice in the case of abuses or terrorist acts, and the fact that the Negroes in the country should be one of the state's most practical means of making farm life attractive to them.

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of the past in this State and lynching has been for several years on the decrease. Let it be stamped out altogether, give the industrious rural Negro an opportunity to educate his children and to market profitably his produce and we believe there will be a substantial increase in Georgia of Negro farmers of the caliber of John Murphy and many others like him.



# Improvement of FARM CIVILIZATION UPLIFT IS PLANNED

## Plea for Economically Sound Agricultural Life Heard at Meeting of Rec- lamation Chairmen.

The civilization of the entire south is at stake under the existing farming conditions and agriculture, our chief industry, must be made economically sound if prosperity is to be made permanent, declared Hugh McRae of the Southern States Association on Reclamation, which was attended by representatives of 10 southern states.

"Contrary to public opinion, we are not interested in the reclamation of farm lands but in directing our entire attention to the rebuilding of rural civilization in the south as a means of salvation for this section of the country," Mr. McRae declared. "The one-crop system is a thing of the past," he went on. "It is not successful in this day and time and farming must be regulated to meet the new economic conditions. Experience has shown that it is useless to tell farmers how to regulate their crops and it is our idea that they must be shown by the establishment of model farms in each of the ten southern states and with the help of the department of the interior and the securing of the necessary appropriation, we hope to be able to carry out this plan."

It was pointed out that the state of Florida spends \$125,000,000 a year for foodstuffs, while it ships out only \$100,000,000, and this was said to be typical of the entire south. Plans for offsetting this balance of trade are being considered by the conference.

Mr. McRae stated that the Crisp-McKellar bill, which was introduced in the house of representatives in December, 1927, had been successfully opposed because of misinterpretations of the measure and that every effort would be made to rearrange it to eliminate opposition from this source in the firm belief that the measure would pass on its merits. The bill is entitled an act "To authorize the creation of organized rural communities to demonstrate methods of reclamation and benefits of planned rural development," and Mr. McRae cited several instances of persons opposing the bill and later changing their position after becoming familiar with the real purpose.

**Approaching Farm Problems.**  
The afternoon session of the conference was devoted to discussions of important avenues of approach to the solutions of the existing farm prob-

lems in the belief that a thorough research of the situation would bring about an answer. Many members of the state committees present, some of whom are outstanding farm experts, gave their views as to the most practical methods of getting the desired results of rebuilding a satisfactory rural life. Much thought was given to the details of a program to be worked out by committees and submitted to the conference this morning.

George C. Kreutzer, representing Dr. Elwood Mead, of the reclamation bureau of the department of the interior, declared that the realization of the organized community project marked the "quickest way for prosperity in the south." "It is a plan to put the south on a sound economic basis where it can feed itself," he stated. It was pointed out that similar ideas already had been successfully worked in a number of foreign countries, including New Zealand, Germany, Holland, Australia and others.

### Quotes Dr. Branson.

He quoted Dr. E. C. Branson, professor of rural economics at the University of North Carolina, who has devoted much time and study to the problem of farm life in the south, and the meeting approved his summary of the situation as a guide that could be safely followed in the general program. A committee was appointed to wire President-elect Hoover asking that the association be given an early hearing on the matter and it was predicted that the question would have a successful termination under his administration.

A finance committee was appointed to work out plans whereby each state concerned could make the necessary arrangements to participate in the financial program of the association. Dr. W. H. Mills heads a committee to review the Crisp-McKellar bill to eliminate words or features that might prove barriers to further progress in helping the farmers of the south. J. Folse, chairman of the Mississippi delegation, was made chairman of the publicity committee.

The conference adjourned at 6:30 o'clock Monday night and will convene again at 9 o'clock this morning to hear and discuss the findings of the various committees.

### Not Solely on Farming

The serious depression in farming in South Carolina, the seriousness is not likely to be exaggerated, does not necessarily mean that the state as a whole cannot and does not prosper.

If two million acres of lands in farms have been abandoned in the last seven years, where are the people who abandoned them? A large number of negro farmers, but not all, have left South Carolina. Most of the white people remain. Those who are still within the state, having ceased to be tenant farmers, or farmers of poor and mortgaged lands, are now wage earners. A negro family that lived meagerly a dozen years ago in

Union county on a hundred acres of rough and worn lands, promising the landlord two bales of cotton and obtaining supplies from a merchant, dwelling in a squalid cabin and producing barely enough to keep off starvation, after paying the rent, contributed nothing to the wealth of the state. If a horse on a farm produce no more than its feed the farmer better had not own it.

Almost invariably when a man who has failed on the farm leaves and comes to be a wage earner, a worker on highways or bridges, or houses under construction, or in factories, his value to the commonwealth increases. His labor begins to fruit in a little more than scanty subsistence. The landlord and perhaps dealers in fertilizers are losers, but the commonwealth is the gainer. One traveling in South Carolina and hearing nearly everywhere mournful and true stories of losses on the farms marvels at the unmistakable signs of prosperity. He sees new cottages in all the villages and extending far out in the suburbs of the large towns and cities. He sees increasing thousands of motors. The explanation in part is that the wage earning class in South Carolina has notably increased in the last ten years and wages, though lower than they should be in some of the industries, are much higher than they were before the Great War.

Heretofore one has never been able to think of a prosperous South Carolina without a prosperous agriculture, and it is deplorable that agriculture does not flourish. The tragedy of a life spent on the farm and ending in the loss of the farm is not to be disputed. Still, a state materially and highly prosperous with agriculture sunk to a third

or fourth place in importance is conceivable. Probably South Carolina is a long way from that, but it is setting out in the direction of it and making progress.

If our people can't raise cotton, tobacco, fruits, vegetables and livestock and sell them at prices that make living comfortable and decent, let other people raise them.

Waycross, Ga. Journal-Herald  
Sunday, January 13, 1929

## ACTIVITIES OF NEGRO FARMERS FOR YEAR 1928

### Colored County Agent Makes Report for Two Months Work.

Ware county colored Agricultu-

ral Board has a membership of 12. Junior club enrollment of 53. Adult club enrollment of 87.

Three adult and three junior clubs carrying extension work. Total number of visits made in conducting extension work was 94. 53 different farms were visited. Twenty-two office calls for extension work were made and twelve telephone calls. Six days were spent in the field. Two short news articles stressing extension work were put on press. 96 letters were written and 294 bulletins were distributed.

Colored farmers exhibited in the Southeast Georgia Fair.

One method demonstration was given in corn. 16 boys are carrying corn demonstrations. 13 farmers selected their seed corn this year for the first time. Five farmers broke their cotton and corn land before Christmas for the first time.

### COUNTY EXTENSION

During the two months of my work, from October 1 to December 1, I have organized a county Agricultural Board. From each community where I have organized my junior and adult clubs one member is elected to serve on the County Board. Each organized community has its junior and adult clubs and every enterprise its leader.

We have a teacher organization which operates during the time that the rural schools are in session. Each teacher acting in the capacity of a community leader.

These types of organizations will be very helpful when urgent programs are rushed to us. We can see a few key people and have them call the people in the community together, and in that way soon reach some splendid results.

### CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES October

Urged the treating of corn for weevils and the planting of oats. gave demonstration in culling poultry.

Twenty-four fall garden demonstrations started. Made a survey of the farm plants and organized one junior and one adult club.

### November

Encouraged farmers to break their land in the fall. Five registered pigs were bought cooperatively for club boys. Twenty-two club members put on exhibits at the Southeast Georgia Fair. Farmers were advised to repair houses and fences.

Waycross, Ga. Journal-Herald  
Friday, February 8, 1929

## NEGRO FARMERS ARE SHOWING ACTIVITY

Fifteen negro farmers in Ware county have started demonstrations in oats, according to a report made to State College officials by Alex Hurse, negro county agent. Forty-eight full gardens are being cultivated by negro farmers, and 7,500 cabbage plants are set out.

Post  
Friday, March 29, 1929

## Prizes Offered To Strictly Colored Farmers of County

County Agent R. L. Vansant is in receipt of notice from fertilizer companies that they will offer special cash prizes for the best five acres of cotton and a similar number of acres of corn grown in the Cobb county strictly by colored farmers, whether tenants or landowners.

All who are interested in competing for the prizes should send their names at once or call on Mr. Vansant. Further details of the contest will be published next week.

Monroe, Ga. Walton News  
Tuesday, February 19, 1929

### Industrious Negro Farmers.

Wednesday afternoon we had a little time that we decided to spend in the woods and out near the open fields, and en route going and coming, we took occasion to pass the farms and homes of two of Walton county's best known and most highly-respected negroes, Wallace Williams and Oscar Stone. It is heartening to see just how much these darkies have

done toward their crops this year, and there is every indication of a live-at-home program with these tenants.



News  
Blakely, Ga.

APR 11 1929

#### WHERE WALK GHOSTS

The flavor of romance is not lacking in the recent sale of the old Phil Cook plantation, in Lee county, to a Negro who has been a tenant on its broad acres for 18 years.

The Cook plantation, embracing 1,400 acres, is near Terrell county line, and on it its owner, General Phil Cook, lived for many years. He represented the Third District in Congress, then became Georgia's secretary of state, holding the latter office till his death. He was succeeded as secretary of state by his son and namesake, who had been born on the Lee county plantation, and who in turn held the office in which his father had died till his own death some years ago.

The Cook place was sold at auction for the purpose of effecting a division among the heirs. The sale attracted a large crowd, but the bidding was not spirited, owing to the fact that large plantations are not now in demand. The Negro tenant to whom the place was knocked down obtained it for \$16,000. He is John Murphy, a practical and successful farmer who is highly thought of in his community.

This Negro farmer, the descendant of slaves, thus becomes the owner of a plantation that is fairly typical of those landed estates which in an earlier day were the pride of this section. Lee, Terrell, Randolph, Calhoun, Dougherty, Baker, Mitchell, Early and Decatur counties embraced scores of great plantations ranging in area from one to three thousand acres each. Their owners constituted the landed aristocracy of this section, for they were men of wealth and influence whose sons and daughters enjoyed the best educational and social advantages, and whose country homes were models of elegance and comfort.

During the Civil War these great Southwest Georgia plantations sent tons of food supplies to the Confederate armies. So rich was their contribution to the support of General Lee's all-too-often hungry legions that this section came to be known as the "Egypt of the Confederacy."

In later years the big plantation has had its troubles. The tenant system had shortcomings the nature and wastefulness of which are well

known. Once fertile acres suffered from neglect on the part of those who did not own them. The "country aristocracy" moved to town, and its sons became merchants, lawyers, doctors and manufacturers instead of farmers.

Now one of these fine old plantations—a place that was a social center till long after the Civil War, whose owners made it yield abundant crops and maintained it in fine condition, but who in time felt the lure of the city and left 1,400 splendid acres to the tender mercies of croppers—is bid in at an auction sale by a descendant of those who, as slaves, helped "make the glory that was" in a day of rural magnificence. For great changes have come to pass in 60 years, and the big plantation of a golden age can no longer hold its own—Albany Herald.

## Forest, Farm and Factory Program Is in Preparation At College of Agriculture

### Plan Features Cow-Hog-Hen Program as Basis. Reforestation, Poultry, Fruit Growing Included

Waycross, Ga., July 1.—(Special.) The forest, farm and factory program adopted by the Southeast Georgia Co-operative Association, as well as the Waycross and Ware County Chamber of Commerce, is now being arranged by the Georgia State College of Agriculture at Athens and will be ready for publication within a short time, it was announced here today by J. S. Elkins, author of the plan.

The program features the cow, hog, hen plan as a basis upon which to make diversified farming in southeast Georgia a paying proposition, and strongly emphasizes a well balanced program of diversification with feed and food crops as leaders, and cash crops, such as cotton and tobacco, as seconds.

"The reforestation of acres unsuited for farming will be recommended, and also the replacing of wire grass with carpet grass to provide pasturage of real value for cows and hogs," Mr. Elkins stated today in commenting on the three-cornered program.

"Another item of especial interest in the program will be poultry and poultry products. There is hardly any doubt that Waycross, in the very near future, will become an established poultry and egg market of great importance. And the growers have learned from recent experiences that money

coming in every month, and even more often, from the sale of poultry, fills a very important place in the family program.

#### Fruit Trees.

"The planting of pecan trees and other fruit trees that are adapted to our section will be urged. Sanitation and health measures will be included as well as necessary measures to make the home and premises attractive in appearance.

"Every cow, hog and hen on the farm becomes a factory for converting raw material into a finished product. When given the proper care and attention the dividends derived from this industrial enterprise are great. Corn can be made to increase its value by 300 per cent and grass can be sold at a fabulous price. It can be done, and it is being done, but it takes effort, care, knowledge and a desire to make something more than an ordinary existence.

"When the program is completed it will be published in the Southeast Georgia Fair premium catalog, and also will be printed in pamphlet form for distribution throughout the 14 Southeast Georgia counties comprising the Southeast Georgia Co-operative Association."

Washington, Ga., News-Reporter  
Friday, November 1, 1929

#### JIM SMITH, HANCOCK COUNTY

One of the most successful colored farmers of Hancock County, is Jim Smith, who lives about three miles east of Sparta. Jim owns two farms but rents out one of them and lives on the other, which contains one hundred and six acres.

He bought this farm in 1927 for \$2 000.00 and

has it all paid except one note for \$400.00 which is not due yet. He bought 76 acres of land in 1918 at \$70.00 per acre that he owns now and has a clear title to it, and he owns some property around Sparta.

Jim does not depend much on cotton for a money crop, but goes in more for truck crops and especially sweet potatoes and feeds out to a number of hogs to sell each year.

He sells from 700 to 800 bushels of sweet potatoes each year at \$1.00 per bushel and plants four acres in truck crops, from which he averages selling \$100 worth per month, including ten to fifteen pounds of butter each week, which he sells to regular customers, and about \$100.00 worth of poultry and eggs.

He says he never goes to town unless he carries something to sell and pays cash for everything he buys.

He grows all of the food and feed stuff necessary to run his own farm and usually has some to sell and grows cotton as a sideline crop.

Jim owns a Dodge car and a Ford truck that he uses for carrying his products to market.

The fact that he held on to the farm he bought in 1918 at a high price and paid for it, is proof enough he is a man that can be depended upon and deserves recognition for doing so. He stands well among his own race for reputation for honesty and square dealing with the white people.—Agriculture

The above is taken from Bulletin, issued by the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station, and edited by M.

What Georgia needs is and colored. It will like a rose.

Agriculture is the future in Georgia. Thousands of dollars of feedstuff stock and cattle, cheaper than the "Jim Smiths" assured.—Wilke



Agriculture - 1929

Improvement of

# FARMERS TO HAVE GUILD

2/16/29  
Launch Program Of Co-  
Operative Marketing;  
Wants 25,000 Member-  
ship.

CHICAGO, Ill., Feb. 14.—(A. N. P.) — Declaring that the Negro farmer was one of the least protected productive units in the country and that the future of black tillers of the soil lies in organization, James Perry Davis, president of the National Federation of Colored Farmers, announced here this week the launching of a program of co-operative marketing for Negro farmers.

Mr. Davis, formerly of Georgia, a brother-in-law of Bishop A. J. Carey, has for the past several years conducted a successful produce commission business in Indiana. Many of the carloads of melons and much of the other produce he sold was shipped to him by Negro farmers of the South. Mr. Davis said in explaining how he had demonstrated the practicability of his plan:

"We want 25,000 Negro farmers to enter our co-operative organization this year," said Mr. Davis. "By elimination of the middleman and encouragement of diversified planting, we will create a new market which will revolutionize the Negro farmers' income."

Offices of the National Federation of Colored Farmers have been established in the Vincennes Hotel, Chicago. "Few people," said Mr. Davis, "realize the tremendous potentiality of the Negro farmer. The white farmer has long ago seen the necessity for co-operative action."

## EXPECT RUSH TO CO-OPS IN QUEST OF FARM AID

*Chicago Tribune*  
Leaders Here See Or-  
ganization Boom.

7/26/29  
BY ARTHUR EVANS.

Agricultural leaders in Chicago held yesterday that a drive to bring the farmers into coöperative organizations is the next step to make effective the agencies contemplated in the new farm relief act. Following the announcement in Washington of Alexander Legge, chairman of the federal farm board, that the loaning operations of the board are apparently limited to giving financial assistance to regularly organized coöperatives, the leaders looked for a movement of farmers to join up and for the coalescing of many coöperatives into big units.

At present the middle west is the area in which coöperative organization is at its highest. The consensus of opinion at the headquarters of the agricultural associations in Chicago is that when the board defines its policy in greater detail, one matter which needs bringing into high relief is that of incentive to join the coöperatives.

### Prices First Consideration.

As the leaders view it, the first benefit sought in the farm relief measure is stabilized and profitable prices for agricultural commodities. In this, it is pointed out, producers will share, regardless of whether they join a coöperative or not. The stabilization price process, however, is to be brought about through the instrumentality of the coöperatives.

To build up the coöperatives, the argument is, some differential is needed between those who join and those who do not. In other words, the leaders argue, the coöperatives must be able to lay weight upon the "patronage dividend" to members, and to emphasize that if successful a melon will be

cut at the end of a season in which nonmember farmers will not share.

The farm relief bill having been built around the coöperatives and the idea that agriculture should build itself through its own agencies, with aid from the government, the farm organizations yesterday laid weight on the idea that it is now up to the farmer to become a shareholder in his own enterprises.

### Farmer Must Take Part.

The Illinois Agricultural association in its periodical says: "The agricultural marketing act and the federal farm board, it is hoped, will point the way to stabilization at a profitable level. Farmers recognize their responsibility in the work that lies ahead. We must learn first, however, that co-operation means the individual support of every farmer to his live stock shipping association, producers' commission association, coöperative fruit and vegetable growers' association, seed growers' exchange, cream shipping association, coöperative farmers' elevator, coöperative farm supply company and the farm bureau."

Government figures show 2,000,000 farmers organized out of a total of 6,500,000 last year. The coöperative farmers in their 12,000 associations sold collectively farm products to the value of nearly \$2,000,000,000. They bought farm supplies to the value of nearly \$500,000,000 dollars.

Counting in shareholders, consignors, and patrons, the government credits 3,000,000 identified with the active coöperative associations.

### Most in Elevator Group.

Of the farmers in coöperatives nearly one-third are members of farmer elevator associations, one-fifth belong to coöperative creameries, cheese factories, or milk market organizations. About 50,000 are selling poultry products coöperatively, about 25,000 are acting coöperatively in marketing their annual wool clip, and nearly 150,000 are members of cotton coöps.

About one-third of the farmers in the country are in coöperatives. But 70 per cent of the total membership is in the twelve north central states. Minnesota is at the head of the states, with Iowa second and Illinois third. Wisconsin and Michigan are well up toward the top.

The dairying industry is the most highly organized from the coöperative point, while grain raising is one of the least organized.

### 180,000 Organized in Iowa.

Iowa, which has 214,000 farms, has 180,000 farmers in coöperative associations, according to the last government survey, out for the year 1925. Illinois,

with 226,000 farms, had 131,000 farmers in coöperatives in 1925. Wisconsin, with 193,000 farms, had 120,000 members of 1,092 coöperative associations. Minnesota had 217,000 farmers in coöperatives and 188,000 farms. Michigan, with 192,000 farms, had 128,000 farmers in coöps.

Missouri had 170,000 coöperative farmers and 260,000 farms.

In the volume of business done by the coöperatives, Minnesota led with a quarter of a billion dollars' worth, followed closely by California. Illinois was third with 260 million dollars; Iowa fourth with 172 million dollars; Wisconsin next with 113 million dollars. Michigan stood twelfth with 82 million dollars' worth of products sold coöperatively.

While dairying is highly organized in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Minnesota, grain marketing in Illinois is rated among the least affected by coöperatives at present. One put out from the Illinois Agricultural association yesterday was that in one year on the Chicago market, the co-operative terminal commission agency sold through its subsidiary, the Rural Grain company, only three and a half bushels of grain.

### Not Selling Enough.

"This is not enough," it says: "More than 200 million bushels of grain are sold there annually. If the farmer hopes to be a factor in the market he should have in the hands of his own terminal sales agency a large volume of the grain sold. Today he is not handling coöperatively on the terminal markets enough to make a good showing."

The Illinois, according to the association, farm bureau effort in the last eight or ten years has developed over 500 live stock shipping associations for Illinois. Thirteen producer commission agencies farmer owned are operating at terminal markets. Cream shipping coöps in Illinois are set forth as having secured increases of from 3 cents to 10 cents per pound for butter fat for members.

Most of the states in which coöperatives are successfully operating have fairly uniform coöperative laws. Some years ago there was a movement for a standard law. Some of its main provisions are "one member, one vote," the first principle of coöps, and provisions for selling of stock necessary to provide funds on an interest basis. The profits are to go back as patronage dividends to the patrons. They are in general exempt from corporation and income tax and from the anti-trust law.



#### Skepticism Persists.

However, there are other farmers who operate independently or at least through the other farm organizations such as the Farmer's Union, the Equity and the Grange. Some of these men believe the formation of this gigantic pool will mean the scrapping of the organizations whose battles they have fought for many years. They will not do this with good grace. At least, there will have to be missionary work by farm leaders who inspire leadership and will be trusted.

More than one farmer has said the Federal Farm Board needs more prestige with what they term "honest-to-goodness" farmers. By that they mean men who actually are farmers and not organizers. If there is a weak spot in the farm board, and Kansas wheat farmers think there is, it is its city-farmer complexion. This remark is heard frequently in the Southwest wheat centre at Dodge City: "Mr. Hoover may know how to organize business men and executives of that type, but he doesn't know the farmer or he would have had more genuine farmers on his board."

So it is with this handicap, the farm board must function in the Southwest. The personnel of the committee of sixteen, however, has allayed some of the distrust. There are men in that group who have worked with the farmers and have their respect and confidence. Kansas newspapers, however, generally regret the President's failure to name H. L. Hartshorn of Ford. This man does his hitch with his sons in the wheat harvest and is a director in his town elevator company.

The success of the farm measure, then, as it relates to the wheat industry in Kansas will be measured by the success of the committee of sixteen in drafting a plan for permanent organization. Unless there are men in control of its operations who inspire the confidence of the farmer and are able to sell him the cooperative idea, the relief plan will not rate high. This type of man will not be a "patriot" or a "draftee" whose acquaintance with actual grain farming problems is based on observation and childhood on the farm.

Kansas,

## Agriculture - 1929 Improvement of KANSAS WHEAT MEN GOLD TO FARM PLAN

Good Crops Responsible for  
Present Casual Interest in  
Board's Activities.

### ALLEN WOULD CURB ALIENS

Senator to Ask Congress to Limit  
Immigration to 100,000 for  
Next Five Years.

By ROY BUCKINGHAM.

Editorial Correspondence of THE NEW YORK  
TIMES.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 7.—The Kansas grain farmer's reaction to the proposed national marketing corporation whose stock he is to be asked to purchase at \$20 per farmer member, puts him in the same class as the Missouri farmer of whom it is said, "He has to be shown." The Kansas wheat farmer particularly has come out so much better this year on his wheat than he had expected that his interest in the national marketing group is fully casual at present.

The Kansas farmer is no hillbilly. He has his radio, motor cars and hired help. He farms with power machinery, has his books audited, makes a confidant of his banker and thinks about his own affairs. He spends his Winters in California. When Senator Henry J. Allen went to Western Kansas to discuss the farm bill at various meetings, the city men showed more interest in the marketing plan than the farmers. The latter refused to postpone preparations of the seed bed for the 1930 wheat crop in order to hear the eloquent Wichita man plead for Hoover's farm relief plan.

As wheat farmers are in the majority in Kansas, their reaction to the proposed marketing corporation may be indicative of the attitude of farmers in general in that State. There are more than 600 cooperative groups in Kansas—that is, farmer members of cooperative elevators who market through the Farmers' Commission Company. Cooperative marketing, then, is nothing new to them. They understand the proposed measure and their leaders believe they will fit nicely into the super-cooperative.



Agriculture - 1929  
Improvement of

## BIG FARM BODY TO BE ORGANIZED

National Cooperative Council of American Institute of Cooperation Formed In Baton Rouge, La.

BATON ROUGE, La., Aug. 2.—(AP) Formation of what is contemplated as the largest and most representative union of agricultural interests ever attempted in the United States was undertaken here today with organization of the national cooperative council of the American Institute of Cooperation.

Eight of the leading cooperatives in the country, representing one hundred commodity groups, number a membership of more than a million farmers, participated in the preliminary work of organization.

C. O. Moser, Dallas, Tex., president of the American Institute of Cooperation and head of the American Cotton Growers Exchange, was named temporary president of the new council, with Charles W. Holman, Washington, secretary of the institute and of the National Cooperative Milk Producers Federation, acting secretary.

The object of the council, speakers at the organization meeting declared, was to give the farmer a concerted voice in matters dealing with American agriculture. Headquarters will be established in Washington.

It is the purpose of the organizers to gather all of the cooperatives in the country into a unified group at the council table and operate on the principle of unanimous consent.

The council probably will not be incorporated for several weeks, pending conferences with cooperatives not represented here today.

Louisiana.



Agriculture - 1929  
Improvement of

## For Colored Farmers and Dairymen

(By E. W. Hayes, Agricultural Instructor of Oktibbeha County Training School for Colored)

### Properly Breaking Cotton Lands.

The first and proper thing to do in planning out a cotton crop, is to properly locate and select the proper lands on which to grow cotton. By thorough investigation, you will find that all varieties of cotton do their best and make their highest production on rich loam soils and rich surface soils with a clay subsoil, providing that said soils are properly drained. Remember that cotton will not and cannot do well on low wet marshy lands and that it is a dry weather plant.

Taking the above truths into favorable consideration, it behooves us to see to it that our cotton lands are properly drained. We need not go to any great unreasonable expense to drain our cotton lands, if we have a main ditch or canal running through our cotton farm, then the most economical thing to do is to take a double team hitched to a 14-inch turning plow and plow out drain ditches from all low sections of our cotton lands, to the said main ditch or canal, which will give us a perfect drainage, thus affording an outlet for all surplus water. We know that cotton needs very little rain indeed, the most rain it needs is during its growing season, during its fruiting and maturing stage it needs practically no rain but plenty of hot sun shine.

Having properly located, selected, and drained our cotton lands, now comes the proper time to

**NEGRO HAND RUNS  
TRACTOR 32 HOURS.**

COLUMBUS, Miss., June 8.—L. F. Bryne, insurance man at Billups, eight miles west of here, in Lowndes County, reported that one of his colored tractor drivers, Edgar Hawkins, operated a tractor for 32 consecutive hours, with only 30 minutes out for one meal. Mr. Bryne said that power farming is enabling the operation of the farm with one-third less labor than formerly. His farm includes 960 acres of rich fine prairie land.

break our cotton lands properly. Before you begin breaking your cotton lands, look up your cotton land breaking record and see just how deep you broke said lands last season, if you broke it (5) five inches deep, then you should break it this season (6) six inches deep, one inch deeper each succeeding year or season until you have broken said lands (8) eight inches deep which will be deep enough. The object for breaking cotton lands one inch deeper each year or season, is to deepen the soil and to give nature an opportunity to convert the newly broken soil into a productive condition, by making available the plant food contained in said soil, for feeding the cotton plant. Remember you should always break your cotton lands with a double team hitched to a ten or twelve inch turning plow, running two furrows with said turning plow, breaking the middles out with a twelve inch middle buster. Be sure to break all your cotton lands while in a dry condition in order that you may be able to thoroughly pulverize said lands. If you break said lands while wet, you will ruin the texture of said soils and the hot sun shine will bake the sods turned up in a wet condition, these sods will remain in the said baked or hard condition throughout cultivation period of the cotton crop.

Remember that if your cotton lands are allowed to remain in the said hard baked condition (which they are sure to be if broken wet) there will be a many thousand of tons of valuable fertilizers fasten up in the said hard baked soil, thereby preventing the cotton plant from being properly fed which will result in a very short cotton crop indeed, hence we can readily see the reason for not breaking our cotton lands while wet. Let us do our best to get through breaking our cotton lands April 1st, in order that said lands may have plenty of time to settle down thus giving us a solid bed to plant our cotton crop on.

Having finished breaking your cotton lands, take a disk harrow and disk said lands about an inch

deep, following said disk with your section harrow, letting your planter follow your section harrow, planting your cotton about one inch deep. Do your best to get all your cotton planted by April the 20th.

Don't forget your Gardens: Plant mustard, lettuce, radishes, carrots, beets, rape, spring turnips, spinach, and tomatoe seed in hot beds, also egg plants in hot beds, set cabbage and onion plants. Plant Irish potatoes and bed sweet potatoes. Plant corn for early roasting ears.

### A COLONY OF FARM OWNERS

About five years ago the Laurel Chamber of Commerce organized a company for the purpose of working out a demonstration in the settlement of cut-over lands in this territory (Jones county, Mississippi).

The company purchased 1,500 acres of average land six miles south of Laurel, divided same into farms averaging 60 acres each, cleared and fenced 20 acres on each farm, erected a four-room house, a barn and other necessary improvements on each farm, adding the actual cost of the improvements to the sales price on the land, and giving terms to purchasers running through a period of ten years, with six percent interest.

In 1928 the company completed this settlement, having sold all of the units to settlers and are reasonably well pleased with the experiment.

The farm lands in this section of Mississippi are owned in small areas and are cultivated as a usual thing by the owners. This, of course, has a tendency to make the percentage of tenants smaller in this section of the state than in other sections where the farm lands are owned in large bodies.—W. H. Smith, Secretary-Manager, Laurel, Miss.

Aberdeen, Miss. Examiner  
Wednesday, November 13, 1929

## Negro Farmer Does Well In Monroe County

Mark Willis, With Assistance of Two Boys, Makes 10 Bales of Cotton, Plenty of Corn, Potatoes, Meat—Sells \$40 Worth of Turnips

Mississippi.

A few days ago, Mr. W. L. Willis of the Hamilton country was in our office, and he told us about a negro family, living on the W. D. Walton place, which has done remarkably well the past year. Mark Willis is the negro's name. He cultivated a crop with the assistance of his two boys, about 12 or 13 years old, and has already ginned 10 bales of cotton. In addition to this, he has made enough corn to supply his needs for another year, along with good crops of peas, potatoes, molasses, etc. He has raised all the meat he used the past year, and has also sold some shoats. Mr. Willis tells us that the negro moved to this farm 5 years ago, with practically nothing. He now has his own wagon and teams, riding cultivators, and owns a good automobile.

He cleared \$600 this year, in addition to his living expenses. We learn that he sold about \$40 worth of turnips from a quarter acre patch, which had already produced a field crop. He sold \$13.50 worth of "greens" while thinning out the turnips so they would have room to grow.

This shows what the soil of Monroe county is capable of doing when intelligently cultivated. The discontent and unemployment, and unrest, prevalent throughout the world, would have little excuse for existence if the idle acre in Mississippi and the Southland were made to produce a harvest such as we have mentioned.

## ONE NEGRO WHO KNOWS FARMING

Makes Everything to Eat on  
the Farm and Money to  
Put in the Bank

AMORY, Nov. 28—Mack Willis, a colored farmer who lives in the Hamilton community in this county,

is named as being among a number of negro farmers who have adopted the diversified program and are making independent livings on the farm. Willis cultivated a crop this year with the assistance of his two boys twelve and thirteen years of age, and made over ten bales of cotton.

In addition to this he made enough corn to supply his needs for the coming year, along with a good crop of peas, potatoes, molasses, hay etc. He raised all the meat he used the past year and has also sold some hogs for which he received good prices.

It is said that this negro moved on the farm five years ago with practically nothing. He now owns his own wagon and teams, riding cultivators, and owns a good automobile. He cleared \$600 this year in addition to his living expenses. It is stated that he sold about \$40 worth of turnips from a quarter acre patch, which had already produced a field crop. He sold \$13.50 worth of turnip greens while thinning out the turnips so they would have room to grow. He has money coming in from several different sources throughout the year. He practices intensive cultivation of his crops and never allows his crops to be overrun with grass and weeds as is the custom of many farmers, but saves all the plant food available for his produce. He believes in producing all the feed and food crops possible on the farm and this plan has brought him success in his farming operations.



Agriculture - 1929

Missouri.

## Improvement of Negro Farmer Sells First Cotton

9-28-29  
ANNAPOLIS, Md., September 25.—  
(AP)—Wright Prince, who has  
for a number of years won the honor  
of selling the first bale of cotton in  
Lee county, again won the honor  
of the first bale of the season on Friday  
when he sold a bale of cotton to  
Stevens of Broadway for 18 cents a  
pound.

Prince is one of the best farmers  
in this state and preaches and prac-  
tises the theory of raising foodstuff  
as well as cotton.

## 13 COWS NET HIM \$208 A MONTH

10-4-29  
Cassville, Mo., Sept. 29.—There's  
nothing unlucky about the number 13  
for T. B. Yarnall. Thirteen cows net  
\$208 per month.



Ag. Improve - 1929  
Improvement of

Thursday, February 28, 1929  
**PASTURE CAMPAIGN PROGRESS  
AMONG NEGRO FARMERS**

**Big Banquet at Melville School  
February 28th**

The pasture campaign among negro farmers is progressing nicely. Orders have been placed already for more than one ton of grass seeds. If you are interested in planting a pasture, get in touch with us. No doubt you have land that is too wet for cultivated crops, that would make splendid pasture if seeded with the right mixture.

As a climax to our campaign we are staging a banquet at the Melville school, (near Swepsonville) on Thursday evening, February 28th, at 7:30 o'clock. The Home Demonstration Club will serve you at 50c per plate.

Come one, come all, bring your wife or friends. Let's make this annual event, a big one among our farmers. A splendid program has been arranged for the evening.

J. W. Jeffries, Local Agent  
C. S. Wilson, Home Agent

March 28, 1929  
**NEGRO FARM OPERATORS IN  
STATE.**

Cabarrus county between the years 1910 and 1925, inclusive had a very small increase in negro farm operators, S. H. Hobbs, Jr., shows in a recent issue of The University News Letter. The number of these negro operators in Cabarrus in 1925 was 121, an increase of 1.6 per cent. over 1910. There was an increase in 65 counties, and the Cabarrus increase was almost the smallest of all the 65 counties. In 35 counties there was a decrease.

However, in the State as a whole there has been a large increase and Mr. Hobbs predicts that if the 1910-25 trend has continued we are ahead of all the States except Mississippi. North Carolina increased her farms during the 1910-25 period faster than all the other States except

three; she increased her farm tenants faster than any other State except one, and she led all the States in increase of negro farmers. In fact the increase of farms was very largely an increase of farm tenants and negro farmers.

During the 1910-25 period North Carolina, with a net gain of 15,310 farms operated by negroes, had the largest increase of negro farmers of any State. The second largest increase was in Texas. Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina experienced large losses of negro farmers, due to the ravages of the boll weevil. Many of these negroes moved to North Carolina, which has not been so hard hit by the boll weevil, and which has a second crop attractive to negroes and suited to tenancy—tobacco.

Between 1910 and 1925 thirty-five counties in the State lost negro farmers, while sixty-five gained, the net gain being 15,310, as has been stated. The thirty-five counties experiencing decreases are eighteen mountain counties, seven tidewater counties and ten others in the western half of the State. These thirty-five counties had a loss of 2,061 negro farmers. The sixty-five counties in which negro farms increased had an increase of 17,371 negro farmers. The sixty-five counties experiencing increases almost without exception grow either cotton or tobacco, or both crops. The largest numerical increases were in Nash with a gain of 1,169, Pitt 1,143, and Edgecombe 826 negro farmers. These are three adjoining counties in the very heart of the combination cotton-tobacco belt. The largest per cent gain was in Washington with 93.3 per cent. The largest per cent. decrease was in Graham with 94.1.

During this fifteen-year period, for the entire state, farms operated by whites increased from 188,069 to 202,516, an increase of 7.6 per cent. The farms operated by negroes increased from 65,656 to 80,996, or an increase of 23.3 per cent. In other words, the rate of increase of negro farmers was slightly more than three times the rate of increase of white farmers. The farms operated by negroes in 1925 were 28.5 per cent. of all farms in the State, the ratio having risen from 25.8 per cent. in 1910.

The negro farmers who own their farms are 27.3 per cent. of all negro farmers. The ownership ratios are highest in

**North Carolina.**

the western part of the State, and lowest in the combination cotton-tobacco belt. In other words, negro farm tenancy and negro population density and ratios are highly correlated. The larger the negro ratio the higher the rate of negro tenancy.

In 1925 there were 80,996 farms in the State operated by negroes. While we rank fifth in negro farmers, there is really only one State, Mississippi, that has a much larger number than North Carolina. We are close behind Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and Texas.

**Cause For Alarm**

From the Elizabeth City (N. C.) Independent

Negro ownership of farms in North Carolina shows an alarming increase. The net increase of Negro farm owners in North Carolina for the ten year period 1910-1925 was 15,310. North Carolina farms are passing into the hands of Negro farmers at the rate of one every two days.

I am this increase in Negro farm ownership alarming because the plight of agriculture in North Carolina today is too many backward farmers. The white farmers in North Carolina taken as a whole are a backward lot. The Negro is generally several steps behind the white man.

The average Negro in his laudable desire to own land and establish his citizenship too often impoverishes both himself and the land in the effort to acquire the land. He can't improve the soil; he has put all into the acquisition of it and thenceforth for years to come it is a struggle for him to get a living out of the soil, with nothing to put back into the soil. The result is less productive farm lands, a retarded agriculture.

Nothing is going to stop the Negro from farm ownership. He finds a pride, a satisfaction and a sense of security in the ownership of a farm that few white men can understand or appreciate. And he is going to continue to reach out for more and more farms. As more and more white farmers move into towns, more and more Negroes will move on to the farms. White owners when they decide to sell their farms are not averse to finding Negro buyers, for Negroes keep up their payments. A Negro may neglect his store account or a cash financial obligation, but he will meet his payments on real estate. A larger and larger increase in Negro farm ownership in North Carolina is inevitable.

What then can North Carolina do about it? North Carolina must pay more and more attention to its Negro farmers, providing if possible even better farm demonstration work and home demonstration work for Negro farmers than for white farmers. An intelligently operated Negro farm and a clean, wholesome Negro farm home is an economic asset just the same as a white operated farm and home. Since the Negro in North Carolina has gone determinedly into the business of farming, his labors should have the most intelligent direction the State can give him.

Enterprise

Friday, February 8, 1929

**Advises On Home Or Farm  
Purchase**

**S. B. Simmons, State Vocational  
Supervisor. Talks at A. and T  
Chapel Period**

Greensboro, N. C. Jan. 31st—S. B. Simmons, State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture among Negroes spoke on "Where to Buy a Farm or Home", at the A. and T. College Chapel exercises today in the fourth of a series of talks observing Negro Farm and Home Ownership Week.

The most important decision a farm has to make is the choice of his farm, the speaker declared and warned of the necessity for buying in place where there is immunity from floods and destructive storms. Other factors entering are the length of the growing season, character of the soil, topography of the land, kind of crops grown and yields over a period of years. Further consideration should be given to labor supply, transportation conditions, and market facilities. communities with good roads schools, electric power, mail delivery and other modern conveniences should be heavily favored over backward communities. Farmers have found it to be to their advantage to buy land where taxes are not too high, where neighbors are progressive and where city organizations are anxious to aid the farmer to secure the best results.

Calling attention to the difficulties which Negroes are facing in some cities in planning residence developments, for their race, Professor Simmonds, declared member of the race must approach this problem seriously.

He noted that in a city the home location should be made only in communities where advantages of water, light, gas, paved streets, fire protection, storm drainage and the like are available. Only in cash com-

Over \$90 in premiums were awarded to negro farmers in Halifax County at the recent hog and hominy show held in Enfield by the local agent, R. J. Johnson.

March 7, 1929

communities will residence property factor in deciding where to live, be likely to increase in value, he concluded.

The attitude of the neighbors and the healthfulness of the community should be important



28. 1929

**FARMER**

February 28th

the right mixture

per plate.

been arranged for the evening.

C. S. Wilson, Home Agent

## STATE

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Chapel Period

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## *News* *March 25, 1926* **Increase Of Negro Farmers, 1910-25**

Few are familiar with the degree to which North Carolina farms are operated by Negroes, or the rapidity with which our Negro farmers have increased within recent years.

In 1925 there were 80,966 farms in the state operated by Negroes. While we rank fifth in Negro farmers, there is really only one state, Mississippi, that has a much larger number than North Carolina. We are close behind Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and Texas, and if the 1910-1925 trend has continued we are ahead of all the states except Mississippi. The 1930 census will tell.

### *North Carolina First*

During the 1910-25 period North Carolina, with a net gain of 15,310 farms operated by Negro farmers of any state. The second largest increase was in Texas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina experienced larger losses of Negro farmers, due to the ravages of the boll weevil. Many of these Negroes, moved to North Carolina, which has not been so hard hit by the boll weevil, and which has a second crop attractive to Negroes and suited to tenancy—tobacco.

North Carolina increased her farms during the 1910-25 period faster than all the other states except three; she increased her farm tenant faster than any other state except one, and she led all the states in increase of Negro farmers. In fact the increase of farms was very largely an increase of farm tenants and Negro farmers.

These are facts well worth careful consideration. Such an enormous increase of farms undoubtedly is a sign of economic health, but when this increase is analyzed, and the long-time results are considered, the story loses much of its charm. The chances for the type of agriculture that North Carolina needs, and for the type of rural civilization we would wish her to achieve, have not been enhanced by the drift of the last two decades, especially in the eastern and

southern parts of the state. Especially unfortunate is the enormous increase of farm tenancy in eastern North Carolina where tenancy ratios already were excessive. In that great cash-crop belt nearly seventy percent of all farms are now operated by tenants, and the rate rises year by year. The tax problem, the school problem, the voting problems, and all other social-economic problems of that region are largely the products of excessive landlessness and homelessness.

## **Award Prizes To Colored Farmers For Best Gardens**

(Reported—B. T. Shields)

Prof. C. H. Hudson, a representative of the agricultural department of the state, was present Friday, and held a short meeting of the farmers of Pitt county in the colored high school auditorium. Professor Eppes with the consent of Professor Dupree, the farm demonstration agent, for Pitt county, arranged to have the entire student body in to listen to the very helpful remarks by Professor Hudson. He spoke of the wonderful cooperation and spirit which must have existed here in Greenville and Pitt County at large between the race to which he belonged and the negro race. He stressed the necessity of a year-around garden, a great aid in lessening expenses, another important factor the three kinds of foods valuable for children. In having the student body in to hear the remarks of Professor Eppes and the teachers thought it would help to inculcate within them some of the values and uses of the more common-place things of life together with those instilled from the various teachers, especially in the home economics department.

Many premiums were given by both white merchants and colored friends, and most especially by our good white friends for the persons having best gardens. Professor Hudson was very much impressed, he said, as it showed that Professor Eppes has really cooperated with both races.

Professors Eppes, principal of the colored schools, and Dupree have cooperated in their work together, and by so doing they feel that some good must be derived from it.

Many of the farmers expressed appreciation for the efforts of Professor Dupree for the splendid cooperation and to Professor Hudson for the interest he took to come down and be in this meeting with them on Friday.

The farmers also realize that very little can be done without the support of the white citizenship.

## **Vocational Agriculture Makes Big Advance In Negro Schools**

Dr. H. O. Sargent, Federal Agent, and Roy Thomas, State Chief, Talk to Negro Vocational Agriculture Teachers In Meeting at A. and T.

Vocational education in agriculture in the negro schools of the south has made a great advance since it began 12 years ago with only 39 schools affording such training in the 17 states having separate schools for negroes. Today there are 420 such schools, enrollment has grown from 300 to 16,000, and every state has some form of vocational training in agriculture.

These figures were pre-nested last night at A. and T. college before the annual meeting of the negro teachers of vocational agriculture in North Carolina by Dr. H. O. Sargent, of Washington, federal agent for agricultural education for the federal board of farm vocational education. Dr. Sargent's address, one of three given by him during the day, was the closing feature of a full day's program in which a 100 per cent attendance was registered by the teachers of vocational agriculture in the 26 schools of the state having such training. Also attending were the staff of A. and T. college's school of education, A. L. Teachey, district supervisor of agricultural education, S. B. Simmons, head of vocational agricultural training in the negro schools of the state, and Roy H. Thomas, head of such work in both white and negro schools in North Carolina.

Dr. Sargent last night described the growth of the work from mere institution of day pupils at first to the present plan where those who have dropped out of school, and adults who have had no chance at schooling, are brought to the schools at night or other times for training. Adults have taken great interest in the method of training and now about as many teachers are employed in teaching adult farmers as in training the day students. Tuskegee, Hampton and A. and T. have led in this work of training people for the work in which they are engaged. North Carolina is one of the leaders.

Mr. Thomas reported in a morning address that in 24 negro schools teaching vocational agriculture in the state in the last year, there were 1,288 enrolled in 14 types of classes. These included high school students, part-time students, evening and day-unit students. These boys made a profit of \$88,565 from their practice work during the year. To show the value of the training Mr. Thomas said he had found the boys had averaged 8.8 bushels of corn, 112 pounds of cotton, and 54 bushels more of sweet potatoes per acre than had been averaged in their communities. For each dollar expended on the training of the negro boys, a return of \$4.73 had been made. He called especial attention to the organization of the future North Carolina farmers as a strong organization.

negro students of vocational agriculture. During the year this organization beautified 129 home grounds. It co-operatively sold \$4,000 worth of hogs.

In his afternoon address, Dr. Sargent talked of supervised practice work in agriculture, in which the teacher follows the student or the adult farmer to his farm and supervises the actual carrying out of the practice or skill recommended in the classroom.

The morning address of Dr. Sargent was on the group method teaching, a method which was developed in war days and which has been found to be one of the most effective methods for securing better methods and practice among farmers.

The group method is for farmers who know a good deal of their subject and who have farming subjects of common interest. The teacher acts as a kind of leader or chairman, and the group pools its experiences and its knowledge. Vital information is thus got over in very much more effective fashion than through bulletins or lectures. The teacher only needs to bring to the attention of the group, new and important practices which are not known. Members of a group can be brought to decide on new farming practices which they will adopt and the leader, or teacher, can follow up these and assist the members in performing them. Dr. Sargent called attention to the fact that the group method encourages the development of farm co-operatives and that this development is in line with the recommendations of the farm loan board as recently organized.

## **NEGRO FARMERS MEET AUGUST 15**

Annual North Carolina Negro Farmers' Conference To Be Held in Greensboro

Greensboro, Aug. 6—The program committee of the North Carolina Negro Farmers' Conference, which convened here a few days ago, drafted the annual gathering of farmers, farmers' wives, extension workers, and people who are interested in rural life.

In keeping with the change put into effect three years ago, the conference is scheduled to be held at A. and T. College August 15th to 16th, inclusive. According to announcement given out by the official secretary, H. E. Webb, of Guilford County, an interesting and un-

usually profitable program will be provided. It is the desire of the committee to bring to this conference experts who are conversant with the farmers' job and who can bring information that will assist them in solving their problems.

### **Several Speakers**

There will be several speakers from other states, but the majority will be drawn from workers of the State. Each year about 300 farmers from all parts of the State meet and discuss problems in their fields. The entire extension force, many Jeanes' supervisors, and the agricultural staff of the A. and T. College will be available for service. Efforts are being made to have Governor Gardner accept an invitation to speak at this conference.

In addition to the addresses of inspiration, lectures and demonstrations for information, special efforts will be put forth to provide amusement and entertainment that will add to the occasion. To this end arrangements will be made for moving pictures at the College, a picnic at the College Farm, a tour of points of interest within the county, and a trip to one of the movie houses of the city.

According to Secretary Webb this annual affair will attract more than 500 persons. It is predicted that this year's conference will eclipse in attendance and interest all of the former conferences.



Agriculture - 1929

Improvement of

# MILK COWS IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1928

## The Counties Ranked According to Persons per Cow

The following table, based on the recent issue of Farm Forecaster issued by the crop reporting service of the State Federal Department of Agriculture, gives the number of milk cows of milking age in each county and the ratio of milk cows to population. The counties are ranked according to the latter factor.

In 1928 there were, according to the report, 275,454 milk cows of milking age in the state. This is equivalent to one cow for each 10.2 people. The range among the counties is from one cow for each 2.3 persons in Alleghany county to one cow for each 164.0 persons in Dare. In nine counties there were no more than five persons for each cow; at the other extreme there were nine counties in which there were more than 25 persons per cow.

Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina

Rank	County	Milk cows of milking age 1928	Persons per cow
1	Alleghany	3,155	2.9
2	Clay	1,504	3.5
3	Ashe	5,858	3.9
3	Watauga	3,699	3.9
5	Macon	3,242	4.1
6	Davie	3,323	4.2
7	Graham	1,059	4.7
7	Jackson	2,931	4.7
9	Henderson	4,144	4.8
10	Madison	3,950	5.1
10	Randolph	6,197	5.1
12	Tyrrell	917	5.2
13	Avery	1,915	5.4
13	Chatham	4,616	5.4
13	Cherokee	2,980	5.4
13	Yadkin	3,178	5.4
17	Caswell	3,005	5.5
17	Wilkes	6,340	5.5
19	Orange	3,553	5.7
20	Mitchell	1,999	5.9
20	Stokes	3,552	5.9
22	Haywood	4,215	6.0
23	Lincoln	3,072	6.1
24	Alexander	2,002	6.2
25	Caldwell	3,326	6.3
25	Person	3,228	6.3
25	Polk	1,560	6.3
25	Yancey	2,786	6.3
29	Davidson	6,328	6.4
30	Union	5,810	6.6
31	Iredell	6,031	6.8
32	Cleveland	5,524	7.0
33	Alamance	4,981	7.2
34	Camden	721	7.5
34	Montgomery	1,791	7.5
36	Burke	3,240	7.7
36	Hyde	1,079	7.7
36	Rutherford	4,403	7.7
39	Catawba	4,866	8.0
39	Surry	4,360	8.0
41	Granville	3,459	8.1
41	Warren	2,795	8.1
43	Buncombe	9,362	8.2
43	Rowan	6,296	8.2
45	Currituck	870	8.4
46	Franklin	3,281	8.6
46	Transylvania	1,292	8.6
48	Perquimans	1,281	8.7
49	Swain	1,712*	9.2
50	Mecklenburg	9,503	9.8

\*1927 Figures.

Rank	County	Milk cows of milking age 1928	Persons per cow
51	Cabarrus	3,985	10.0
52	Anson	3,025	10.1
53	Stanly	3,207	10.3
54	Bladen	1,997	10.5
55	Gaston	5,315	10.9
55	McDowell	1,772	10.9
57	Pender	1,349	11.0
58	Lee	1,328	11.4
59	Northampton	2,046	11.7
60	Moore	2,016	12.5
61	Gates	833	12.7
61	Guilford	7,710	12.7
61	Pasquotank	1,449	12.7
64	Rockingham	3,914	13.0
65	Vance	1,979	13.1
66	Jones	813	13.4
67	Richmond	2,252	13.6
68	Pamlico	644	14.0
69	Hoke	927	14.3
69	Wake	5,966	14.3
71	Sampson	2,847	14.5
72	Washington	785	14.9
73	Durham	3,184	15.1
74	Johnston	3,500	15.9
75	Hertford	1,052	16.2

North Carolina

76	Halifax	2,853	17.3
77	Harnett	1,763	18.2
78	Forsyth	5,523	18.6
79	Greene	998	18.9
80	Duplin	2,370	19.5
81	Cumberland	1,916	20.5
82	Nash	2,198	21.5
83	Columbus	1,428	22.0
84	Scotland	704	22.4
84	Wayne	2,262	22.4
86	Craven	1,394	23.0
87	Beaufort	1,350	23.1
88	Bertie	1,064	23.3
88	Onslow	653	23.3
90	Robeson	2,625	23.4
91	Brunswick	612	24.9
92	Chowan	531	27.2
93	Edgecombe	1,435	30.1
94	Pitt	1,574	32.0
95	Martin	700	33.6
96	Lenoir	1,028	34.5
97	Carteret	461	36.4
98	Wilson	1,028	43.1
99	New Hanover	552	87.1
100	Dare	33	164.0



Agriculture-1929  
Improvement of

Russia.

### RUSSIA TO DOUBLE ITS COTTON CROP

A gigantic undertaking about to be entered upon by the Soviet Government should be of special interest to our Southern States. By means of an irrigation project, the greatest yet undertaken in Europe, and one of the greatest of modern times, the vast area of the parched Golodnaya Steppes in Turkestan will ultimately be turned into fertile country which is to be planted in cotton. In this way the present cotton output of Turkestan, which already grows 50 per cent. of the cotton used in Soviet Russia, will be doubled.

An American engineer, Arthur Powell Davis, formerly head of the Bureau of Reclamation at Washington, is directing this project. Mr. Davis gave out the details of the undertaking to newspaper men recently, stating at the same time that 250 millions of dollars would be spent in this stupendous work. He described the terrain to be irrigated as an even greater area of barren ground than that comprised in Death Valley in California. Mr. Davis's plan is to divert the waters of two great rivers, the Amudaria, the longest stream in Asiatic Russia, and the Sidaria. According to Mr. Davis, these rivers together will supply 10,000 cubic feet of water per second to an area which is ideally suited to cotton culture.

In view of the fact that at present 50 per cent. of Russia's cotton is raised in the United States and Egypt, this Soviet enterprise will arouse great interest among American planters and business men. That it should be undertaken under the direction of an American engineer, employed by the Soviet Government as consultant engineer, is a dramatic feature and one more indication among many of the steadily growing business contacts between the United States and Russia, in spite of the fact that the Soviet Government continues to be denied diplomatic recognition at Washington.



# NEGRO FARMER BEATS WEEVIL

## Jim Hill Gathers 36 Bales From Four Plows Last Year

Jim Hill, colored farmer, may not have made the outstanding record for the county as a cotton farmer last year, but he at least did a great deal better than the "average run" of farmers.

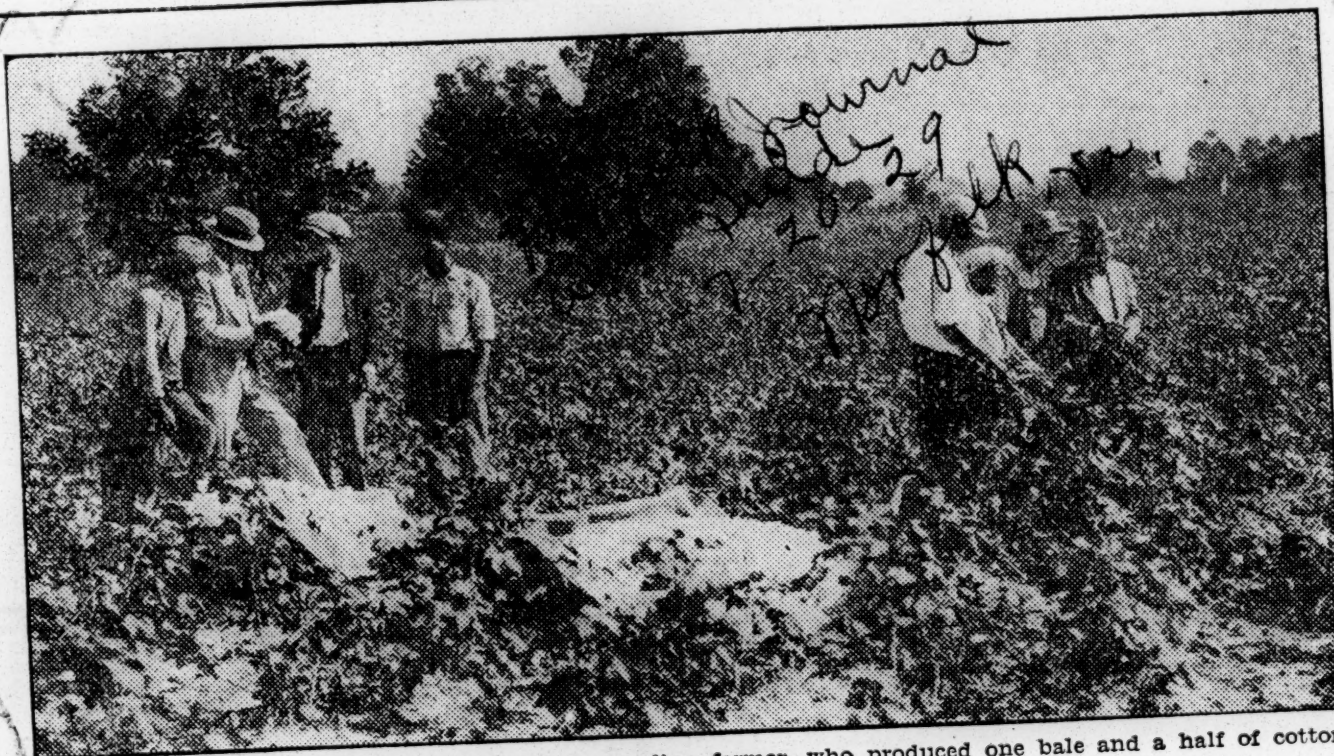
Jim, with the help of his son and another assistant, made 36 bales of cotton with four plows as a tenant for the Bank of Greenwood on what is known as the Thomas Chiles place, near Chiles Cross Road, about two miles below Bradley. This is an average of nine bales to the plow and is more than double the usual yield from one plow, according to the records.

Jim's record is outstanding also in the fact that on the very farm he worked in 1928 only six bales were made by a former tenant in 1927. Jim has the reputation of being a hard worker and uses modern methods in farming, paying strict attention to poisoning the boll weevil. In addition to his cotton he also made large feed crops.

This record is not given as THE record of the county because, since the Index-Journal learned of his crop, unofficial information has come that other farmers below him, near Troy, did even better than nine bales to the plow.

The Index-Journal will be glad to publish other yields and establish the county's champion for the past season. Until correct statistics are received Jim will hold the belt.

## Champion Cotton Grower of S. C.



This picture shows James Prealue, young South Carolina farmer, who produced one bale and a half of cotton to the acre in 1928 at a profit of \$103.00.

St. George, S. C., Eagle  
Thursday, November 21, 1929

### QUESTION IN ARITHMETIC

"How many potatoes make a bushel?" "Nine," answers Bright Funderburk, a Negro farmer of Cheraw, who has the nine spuds on display in that town. Altogether they weigh sixty-one pounds, the largest potato weighing 9 1-2 pounds. This is only one of the many stories of the unusually large sweet potatoes that have appeared in the state newspapers since the harvesting of this year's crop began. There seems to have been a splendid crop of this tuber all over the state. Dorchester farmers report a splendid yield, with the potatoes attaining unusual size.

NEWS  
Florence, S. C.  
NOV 24 1929

### FLORENCE COUNTY'S BLACK DIAMOND

Chesterfield County has a negro farmer who can raise large potatoes. Charlie says that people see traffic on the road in automobiles and they who owns his own land, who has his 1920 cotton, who doesn't owe a dollar, who has the loudest laugh we have heard in sometime, who manages to save money every year planting corn, cotton, tobacco, and potatoes; who is happy and content, who has about 12 or 15 bales of cotton, who is worth several thousand dollars net, and who strange as it may seem, has never owned an automobile.

Charlie began farming as a share-cropper and saved his money, he told us. Finally, he bought his farm and, as he says, will continue to prosper as long as he doesn't own an automobile. He told us that he made a rule, when he could, to give

his children good clothes, as much as he could that they wanted, to educate them, but when they asked him to buy an automobile he always replied, "You wear good clothes, you have a home, and you are getting an education, but you won't have these things if I am crazy enough

to buy and automobile." Florence County has a negro farm-riding salesmen riding up and down the road in automobiles and they who owns his own land, who has his 1920 cotton, who doesn't owe a dollar, who has the loudest laugh we have heard in sometime, who manages to save money every year planting corn, cotton, tobacco, and potatoes; who is happy and content, who has about 12 or 15 bales of cotton, who is worth several thousand dollars net, and who strange as it may seem, has never owned an automobile.

### "CUNNING IS BETTER THAN STRONG"

Not long ago the writer for the first time was trying to spit into kindling wood a lightwood stump. With his mouth parched, out of breath and his whole body exhausted, he stood panting as an old negro named Charlie approached along the

path. Upon request Charlie took the axe and with seemingly little effort and a few well directed blows readily split the stump. Whereupon Charlie handed over the axe and said, "Cap'n, cunning is better than strong."

Recently the Natural Resources Commission of South Carolina was organized to promote the interests of the State. Its work centered first on the Iodine content of vegetables and fruits of this section. This we believe has great possibilities, but who will become Sales Manager so to speak for our Coastal section?

In a recent editorial in The State in discussing Iodine mentioned that some years ago the state of Massachusetts attempted and did plot the negligible amount of Iodine in its vegetables from the coast in Massachusetts to its hill country, and this plotting showed that the highest Iodine content which in Massachusetts is small and in South Carolina great was largest beginning at the coast and was smallest near the hills. It was believed that this was caused by the island having been furnished by the receding of the sea and the leaving of fish etc., in the land. It was suggested by the Manufacturers Record in an editorial that it might be wise for South Carolina to plot the Iodine content of its vegetables.

This writer is not familiar with the Chemistry involved, but it has been suggested that the Iodine may have been deposited in the soil of South Carolina when and as the ocean receded from the mountains the Iodine content would be greatest at the coast and smallest at the foot of the Mountains. Therefore if this be true, our coastal section would be the largest in Iodine content and our vegetables would be proportionately more in demand and more profitable to us. We would not take away anything that the Piedmont country would add but only add to what we, ourselves, may unknowingly possess. It might be well, therefore, for the Coastal section of South Carolina to have a Publicity Expert Sales Manager.



## Improvement of SHELBY NEGRO BOY WINS

Colored Student Grows Two Bales

Cotton on One Acre.

To a Shelby County negro boy goes the record of producing 1,003 pounds of lint cotton on one acre. Alvertis Alvertis, a negro agricultural student at Collierville Industrial School, did this. The negro boy entered the Clean Nitrate of Soda Educational Bureau's Contest for Negroes and as a result of his efforts he has won \$25 offered by this bureau as first prize. His good yield makes him the negro junior cotton champion of the state.

This boy began his project on Jan. 1, 1928, by selecting an acre of sandy loam land that had been in cultivation so long that no one could remember when it had not. This level acre had been in corn the year before. In April the land was turned to a depth of six inches and then harrowed. The rows were made three feet apart and a home mixture of 200 pounds of superphosphate (acid phosphate), 100 pounds of nitrate of soda and 100 pounds of kainit was drilled in the rows. A bed was made on the drilled rows and these were harrowed. Cultivation consisted of cross harrowing, side harrowing, sweeping and chopping twice. When the cotton was spaced the plants were left two and three to each hill about 12 inches apart. On June 13 the acre of cotton was side dressed with 100 pounds of nitrate of soda, and on July 18 the crop was laid by.

He sold two bales for \$180.79 and 2,000 pounds of seed for \$40. His expenses were, rent of land \$5; seed \$2; fertilizer \$8.75; hired labor \$28, and horse labor, \$5.90; a total cost of \$49.65. His labor income was \$171.14 for 181 hours of work.



Agriculture - 1929

## Improvement of COOPERATIVE MARKETING SCHEME

The proposed movement to organize the Negro farmers of the country into a cooperative marketing association, is worthy of the earnest consideration of every black tiller of the soil in the United States, and it is to be hoped that the effort will meet with success.

This is an age of cooperative effort, and the colored farmer, the least protected productive unit in America, will improve his status to a marked degree and become more prosperous and successful if he will learn and practice the lesson of cooperative marketing.

The man, whether on the farm or in business, who essays to operate individually rather than collectively will discover ultimately that he is making very little, if any, headway.

Realizing the power of organization, the farmers of the other race maintain associations for their mutual benefit, and much substantial progress is being made by them as a result of such organized forces and protective movements.

How to sell the product, whether agricultural or mercantile, is the problem now facing the Negro farmer and business man; while the latter is also faced with the elephantine problem of cooperative buying.

The Negro farmer, in this connection, should diversify his crops and produce more green vegetables and other farm products which always have a ready market, and which can reduce the cost of living for the farmer and his family, by providing much of the food consumed by his immediate household.

In speaking of the National Federation of Colored Farmers, President James Perry Davis of Indiana and a former Georgian, says:

"We want 25,000 Negro farmers to enter our cooperative organization this year. By elimination of the middleman and encouragement of diversified planting, we will create a new market which will revolutionize the Negro farmers' income. . . . Few people realize the tremendous potentiality of the Negro farmer. The white farmer has long ago seen the necessity for cooperative action. We have adequate financial support and invite Negro farmers everywhere to join this movement."

## TEXAS AND REVOLUTION

Texas, according to The Houston Post-Dispatch, is now surrounded on every hand by revolution, what with the turmoil in Mexico, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

Texas may not itself be troubled with revolution, but it is one of the contributory causes to an economic revolution which is inevitable in cotton States east of the Mississippi. Of this we are reminded by another editorial in The Post-Dispatch, which is as follows:

If the world ever decides to use more cotton, it need have no fear of not being able to get the increase desired. Texas has given a demonstration of what it can do in the way of cotton production in the last year, and without trying to set any records. The fact is, in spite of the known fact that a reduction in output would be favorable to prices, the State produced 700,000 bales more in 1928 than in 1927. Nearly every county in the State reported an increase in the yield. Texas would feel proud of the accomplishment, if it were not for the guilty conscience. Less and not more production is regarded as the salvation of the Southern cotton farmer. When the largest producing State fails to hold down production, it is small wonder that the little States producing around a million bales or more feel they haven't had a square deal. But, at least Texas can take pride in its ability to produce cotton. Where is there another county in the United States which can produce 122,923 bales of cotton in a single season as Ellis County did in 1928? Is there a county outside of Texas that can produce 111,905 bales as Williamson County did last year? Texas had four counties that produced more than 100,000 bales each in 1928, McLennan reporting 110,912 bales and Hill 101,995 bales. Wharton, San Patricio, Runnels, Nueces, Navarro, Milam, Limestone, Kaufman, Lamar, Hunt, Hall, Fort Bend, Fannin, Falls, Collin, Caldwell, Bell, each produced in excess of 50,000 bales. Total ginnings in the State for the past season are given by the Census Bureau as 5,937,455 bales. With very little effort, Texas could increase that figure by one-third or one-half.

States east of the Mississippi will not abandon cotton, but already they have learned that they must adjust their production to the situation caused by the competition of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas cotton fields. In those States cotton can be grown in greater abundance and at less cost per acre than it can anywhere east of the Mississippi; and the disadvantaged States are feeling the pinch. They must reform their methods.

# Ames, Tex., Is Monument to Thrift of Farmers

(Chicago Defender Press Service)

Liberty, Tex., Oct. 14.—Sel-don has the Race produced a greater monument to its stability and growth than the town of Ames, located on the Old Spanish Trail and Southern Pacific railroad, three miles east of town.

Nestling on the fringe of the famed trail that is known to all travelers, Ames presents a picture of prosperous growth and contented agricultural development where less than a decade ago nothing but prairie land greeted the eye.

The majority of those who reside in this area came to Texas from Louisiana during the past four years and they took land that had been looked upon as not being very productive, although it is of a virgin black composition.

From a beginning of one or two

## HARRIS COUNTY FARMERS WILL STAGE EXHIBIT

Harris County annual farmer's meeting will convene at Odd Fellow's Temple, Prairie and Louisiana, Sunday evening, May 5, 3 o'clock. The general subject, "Back To the Farm," will be presented to the public by concrete demonstrations, viz:

"By Way of the Dairy, Cows, Hogs and Poultry," Oscar Spiller, Joe McKinney, Fairbanks; "By Way of Trucking," Henry Easter of Little York, E. Wilkerson, Brays Bayou and Samuel Lee of Westfield; "By Way of Canning," Jake McAllister, Crosby; "By Way of the Irish and Sweet Potato Production," Walter Page and H. S. Henderson, Hufsmith; "By Way of Corn and Cotton Production," E. Blake, Ed Roquemore, J. C. Westley and Will Whiting; "By Ownership of Land and Home," Joe Mitchell, Viola Foster and Kye Williams; "Girls' Club Work," by Melvina McAllister, Crosby; "Boys' Club Work," by Houston Lee, Westfield. Singing and music will be interspersed between the speakers.

L. G. Luper, county demonstration agent, says: "We are inviting the citizens of Houston to witness this

experimental farm; the Ames area has developed until today the prosperous farm lands have built up a village, peculiarly their own, with stores, cucumber station and other institutions.

An early pioneer farmer in this territory was D. Fontenot, considered one of the richest Race farmers in the South.

The land is given mostly to cotton and corn, with a small acreage devoted to truck products.

Cucumbers make a fine pick-up crop and there is a cucumber station at Ames, where the cucumbers are placed in brine and shipped to Waco.

Ames is an "all Colored community" and its every interest and activity is concerned with this group. One of the finest Catholic churches in Texas fronts the Old Spanish Trail as a recent addition to the town.

The Ames section is considered one of the most prosperous sections of the entire country.

concrete program that will be presented to you by your rural brethren of Harris County. Every laboring man of Houston should see and hear these demonstrations presented by the farmers. Don't forget that the farmers are the backbone of civilization. Come and cooperate with them."

Mrs. A. G. Hall is home demonstration agent for Harris County.



MAY 26 1924

## DAIRY SCHOOL IS POPULAR WITH FARM PEOPLE OF THIS BLACKLAND COTTON SECTION

Demand For Vocational Agriculture Instructors Increasing  
In State; Forty Additional Teachers  
Will Be Needed Next Year.

By ETHEL J. ROE.

There is something inspiring in the sight of boys and girls as they study the lessons assigned them. But when in the same school room meet men and women, some with graying hair and others in the strength of youth, when fathers and mothers and sons and daughters come together to learn practical lessons, lessons which when applied will increase the family income and raise the degree of family efficiency—that is a sight that will do honor to any school room in Texas.

Such a school recently was conducted in the Thrall community, with Professor Porter C. Gentry, superintendent of schools and vocational agriculture teacher, acting as director of a 10-lesson course in dairying, and 35 pupils taking the work. The ages of the pupils ranged from 16 to 60, and the sex was not confined to the males of the species alone, for two women, Mrs. A. D. Wickstrom and Mrs. V. G. Carlson, were there to learn more about dairying. The earnest-faced boys of the agricultural classes sat side by side with their dads and mothers who were just as earnest in their efforts to learn, and perhaps more so, for increased knowledge to them meant better living conditions and incomes for them and their families.

### A Dairy Section.

Thrall is located in the rich blackland cotton-growing section of Texas and formerly was the center of extensive oil operations. But the air is quiet now; the put-put of the drilling engines is replaced by the crowing of roosters, the cackling of hens, and the mooing of cows heard faintly from outlying farms. The smell of oil is gone and the fresh earthy odor of new ploughed ground fills the air. And the people are content that it should be so. This progressive community was one of the first in Texas to purchase a registered Jersey club sire, and as a result there are many fine cattle on the farms thereabout. Oil wells may mean dry holes or shallow fields, but the dairy business properly built upon knowledge and carried on in a businesslike way will never prove a dry hole or a shallow field.

The dairy school, according to P. C. Gentry, was a great success, practically every phase of dairying being discussed. A veterinarian, Dr. J. Steinmann of Taylor, talked on the disease of cattle and their treatment, and D. L. Simon, secretary of the Jersey Cattle club of Texas, spoke on the necessity of good breeding stock. As a result of the school, 108 cows were tested for tuberculosis, 50 cows were tested for per cent of butter fat in milk, and the farmers are planning on buying a carload of registered Jersey heifers.

### Test and Cull.

The boys of the vocational agriculture class test milk free of charge for the farmers of the section, and also during the past year they have culled 2000 chickens and taught the adult farmers of the community how to cull. The basement of the Thrall school is fitted up with a modern workshop. The boys have built a dressing room 20x20, put in a smooth concrete floor, and installed hot and cold running water. A well made magazine rack constructed by the boys holds all the latest periodicals and other reading matter.

The work being done in the Thrall schools is a type of what is being done in a number of Texas communities. We are coming more and more to understand that an education which consists merely of book learning, is not education in the truest sense of the word. But an education to be worthy of the name must be useful. For if education is not useful, we might well ask what is it? It becomes a talent hidden away in a napkin. "A merely well-informed man is the most useless bore on God's earth," Dr. A. N. Whitehead, distinguished British philosopher, is reported as saying in a recent lecture at Harvard. "What we should aim at producing is men who possess both culture and expert knowledge in some special direction."

### Negroes Learning.

That Texas is training boys to become men of this type is proved by

the 300 vocational agriculture teachers who are employed in various sections of the state. Among them are upwards of 100 negro teachers. The fact that negroes are being trained in agricultural knowledge is a hopeful one. Formerly the negroes lived on the farms and learned the various phases of farming, but in recent years with the single-crop cotton system which largely obtains in Texas, the negroes are used on the farms only at chopping and picking seasons, and for the remainder of the time they are housed in the cities, often in undesirable sections and under poor living conditions. With the teaching of agricultural work to the negroes, it is to be expected that our farm labor will increase in knowledge and efficiency.

The vocational agriculture work in Texas is financed by local, state and government funds. Only the actual number of hours used in teaching agricultural subjects are paid for, half of

the teacher's salary is paid by local funds and the other half is paid by the state and federal government, sharing equally. Last year there was appropriated for this work by the state \$72,000, which, with the federal funds made \$144,000 and this matched with local funds would make approximately \$200,000 spent for this work last year. The demand for agricultural training is increasing, according to Prof. C. L. Davis of the vocational agriculture division of the department of education, and about 40 more teachers will be used next school year.

### Learn by Doing.

"The people here would not think of being without vocational agriculture work," says Professor Gentry. "They have doubled the time I am to give to the work here next year. The boys we are training will be the future farmers of Texas and good ones, too."

I am reminded here of the old schoolmaster in "Nicholas Nickleby," Dickens' well known book, who got the work of his school done by requiring his pupils to spell a word and then go and "do it." Thus when windows was the word, it must first be spelled and then the windows washed; horses must be spelled, and then the horse curried and fed, and so on through the list. But instead of the figure of fun that he formerly appeared, the old schoolmaster may have been a creature of the author's brain that was in advance of his generation. For truly we learn to do by doing.

That vocational and industrial courses should be offered rural children is evident. And the district which is able to employ a special vocational teacher is a fortunate one, indeed, for not only are the children taught, but the grownups as well, as in the case of the Thrall section. To organize the abilities and resources of a rural district is like bringing electricity out of the air and converting it into light and power to move the wheels of commerce.



Agriculture - 1929  
Improvement of

Virginia.

By combining diligence and dexterity, one farmer in this section has been unusually successful in getting results out of his efforts, and if getting results is the aim of good farming then he is a good farmer.

That tiller of the soil is M. B. Poole, of Surry county, who makes Smithfield his home. Mr. Poole does farming on a big scale. Two of his sons operate one of his two farms while he and another son operate the other.

Mr. Poole is not adverse to the latest ideas and trends in agricultural practice. In fact he is always receptive to modern methods and readily gives them a trial on his farm.

And thus it is that he gets results where many others do not succeed. At the recent joint rally of the 4-H clubs of five counties in Surry county, Mr. Poole had on exhibit some of the products from his farm. One was a head of cabbage weighing sixteen pounds. Peanuts, corn, and other products exemplary of the highest type of farming, were also on exhibit.

Mr. Poole says that his success is not a matter of luck but one of hard work combined with intelligent cultivation.

Aside from his farming duties, Mr. Poole also conducts an embalming business in Smithfield.



Agriculture - 1929.

Labor Conditions.

**RECORD**

*Ruleville, Miss.*

Mississippi.

JAN 10 1929

**NEGROES ON THE MOVE**

Every since the close of the cotton picking season it has been noted that on our highways there were countless trucks and wagons filled with household plunder being moved from one place to another, some going east, some going west, some going north and some going south, all looking for newer and better jobs. If it was a lean year the moving of tenants would not have been so noticable, as when crops are not so good, money not so plentiful the negro stays where he was from the fact he did not make enough money to pay his landlord and he has to remain and till the soil again, but if the crop is good and is sold at a fair price, the tenant has made "his," paid his landlord, and is seeking new fields, and you never hear of a landlord wanting to keep the tenant unless his is an exceptionable good one. Yet there are tenants who have been with their landlords for many, many years, for they are treated right, made money and are satisfied.